

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

October 1989 — FIRST EDITION

Webster Decision Examined

The decision handed down by the Supreme Court in the case of Webster vs. the State of Missouri on July 3rd did three things:

(1) It accepted the preamble to the Missouri law stating that a person is a human being from the moment of conception. This essentially is the same as saying that the doctrine of the Catholic or of fundamentalist churches is an underlying tenet of law. This also contradicts current laws that say a fetus has no legal rights.

(2) Public employees were forbidden to perform abortions nor could public facilities be used under any circumstances.

(3) A 20 week viability test for survival of the fetus outside the womb (doctors say such a test is not possible) must be performed before an abortion is permitted later in pregnancy.

Although this law was upheld for the State of Missouri only, legislators are introducing similar tests of Roe vs. Wade in all states.

Three other tests of the 1973 decision are pending before the Supreme Court. These cases could further restrict the availability of abortion and offers the court other opportunities to overturn Roe vs. Wade. The court could also accept additional cases later this term.

Coalition Met Sept. 5th

Ten decidedly committed people met at the YWCA Sept. 5th as the "Think Tank" of the newly energized Cortland Coalition for Choice, a coalition that has been active as needed over the past 18 years.

Four committees were formed, with those in attendance readily volunteering to split up the necessary tasks. The high level of enthusiasm gave conveners Pat Shedd, Betsy Gillim and Andrea Marciano much encouragement.

A survey will be drafted and sent to all the people on our mailing list (currently being compiled by Kathy Russell, Pat Shedd and Betsy Gillim) to solicit various types of involvement with the Coalition.

The group does need a fundraising chair and someone to put together a list of elected officials, contact names and addresses. Of course, ideas for action are always welcome.

The "think tank" discussed many possible activities including counter picketing and polling the county legislative and city candidates for their stands on choice before the November election. The focus right now, however, is on getting organized and on publicizing upcoming events such as the November 12th march to Washington DC and a number of local events in which the Coalition should participate.

FIVE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

(1) **WRITE** Governor Cuomo and thank him for his Sept. 10th statements affirming that abortion is "a matter of a woman's conscience." He said that he didn't know why the judgment on abortion should be made by him, by a nearly all-male Supreme Court or by a mostly male Congress.

Governor Mario Cuomo
Executive Chamber • Albany, NY 12224

(2) **BOYCOTT** (put your politics where your mouth is) . . . **Domino's Pizza**. The owner, Tom Monaghan made a \$50,000 donation to the anti-choice group in Michigan which ratified a ballot referendum to eliminate Medicaid funding for abortion for poor women in that state. Domino's is also a contributor to Operation Rescue, Randall Terry's national pro-life group headquartered in Binghamton. A national boycott is being organized. A city and campus boycott would be great. *Write to Domino's to explain why you are boycotting them.*

(3) **COLLECT** the names, addresses and phone numbers of five pro-choice friends and send them to: Pat Shedd, 437 Surrey Drive, Cortland, NY (or call 753-7620).

(4) **CALL** George Bush's comment line (202-456-7639) to voice opposition to the administration's anti-choice politics such as his anti-choice "litmus test" for federal and Supreme Court appointees.

(5) **ASK** your local legislators and other candidates their abortion stance. Local officials lobby and influence state budgets and legislation. People use local offices as stepping stones to state and federal offices. *Abortion is a local issue!*

CHOICE FACTS

- 46% of all women in the U.S. will have or have had an abortion.

(Source: July '89 "Z" Magazine)

- Right-to-Lifers have been picketing Dr. Olson and Dr. Oh's office at 6 Euclid Ave. every week since the July 3rd Webster ruling.

- The April 9th March on Washington was the largest march ever held in the nation's capital — exceeding the famous Civil Rights march of 1963 and the 1971 Mobilization to end the war in Vietnam.

Important Dates

- Sept. 28** Next Coalition Meeting
7:30 PM - YWCA kitchen
Join this lively bunch!
- Oct. 5** Morning Round Table Discussion
on Abortion in the HPER Bldg.,
SUNY Cortland at 8:00 AM
Tom Lickona vs. Bat-Ami Bar On
Education Family Advocate &
Professor at Philosophy Professor
SUNY Cortland from SUNY Oswego
- Nov. 7** Election Day - Local races in
Cortland County
- Nov. 12** Pro-Choice Demonstration
(not a march) in Washington DC

For bus and schedule information
Call Ithaca NOW - (607) 273-1526
Call Syracuse NOW - (315) 455-7866

... I know we just had a march in April, but women have to do things again and again to make the point.

News Flash . . .

9-21-89 Judge declares seven fertilized embryos as persons and awards custody to the mother who hopes to become pregnant, against the wishes of the estranged husband, who argued that the embryos should be considered property. The case is being appealed.

9-21-89 Federal judge in Syracuse upheld an injunction against Randall Terry and Operation Rescue, banning them from blocking womens' access to abortion clinics.

The Far Right

Speaking for Themselves

"Just tell them to keep your hands out of what's inside your swimsuits - that takes care of most girls and boys."

*Phyllis Schlafly, President of Eagle Forum Coalition for Teen Health Press Conference
March 13, 1987*

"Women have babies and men provide the support. If you don't like the way we're made you've got to take it up with God."

*Phyllis Schlafly, President of Eagle Forum
Women's Day, Feb. 10, 1981*

"Although I can never see myself bombing a clinic, when it comes to that issue, I am 'pro-choice.'"

*Michael Meyers, Spokesperson, Project Jericho
Cincinnati Inquirer, May 11, 1986*



"It's our fire insurance"

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

November 1989 — Vol. 1, Number 2

Our Recent Actions

(1) We wrote a letter to **Harvey Kaufmann**, Supt. of the Cortland School District, regarding a policy on guidance counselors referring students for options counseling in cases of unplanned pregnancy. This letter led to a meeting of the Pupil Personnel Committee to formulate this policy.

(2) A letter went to Dr. Olson, Dr. Oh and Cortland Memorial Hospital in response to an article in the *Cortland Standard*. The article detailed a letter from 14 area clergy and others asking how the hospital and the two doctors reconcile their oath to preserve and protect life with the practice of destroying unborn life through abortion.

Our letter supported the hospital and the doctors' policy to provide safe and legal abortions. We got nine mainstream clergy leaders to sign the letter as well as 30 others. Our letter also precipitated a pro-choice letter from the ministerial society with seven clergy signatures. In our letter we also asked that we be included if hospital administrators decide to meet with the group that is questioning their policies.

Oct. 14th Coalition Meeting News

Progress was reported on many fronts. We now have a checking account with a balance of about \$100 and a post office box. The letterhead has been revised and copies will be available from coordinating committee members. Names continue to be added to our mailing list. Andrea and Ruth are working on possible buttons and bumper stickers and will place an order for these items soon.

After hearing about the Oct. 5 roundtable at SUNY Cortland (Anti-abortion professor Lickona debating a pro-choice professor from SUNY Oswego) everyone agreed that a speaker's bureau of some sort was probably necessary. Also, we should have more statistics and facts available to counter arguments of the other side. There was consensus to organize a training session for public speaking.

There was discussion on a "signature ad" in the *Cortland Standard*. There was a consensus to collect names for an impressive ad but there was no rush to put the ad in the paper yet. We decided to contribute \$10 to include Cortland Coalition for Choice in an ad in the *Syracuse Post Standard/Herald Journal* which the *Syracuse* pro-choice coalition is inserting just before Election Day.

We took a few minutes to write letters to President Bush supporting Medicaid funding for abortion for victims of rape and incest, urging Bush not to veto this legislation.

The next Coalition meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 14th at the YWCA

NOVEMBER 12TH WASHINGTON DEMONSTRATION

It was almost impossible to charter a bus. Three companies were sold out for Nov. 12. **Contact Andrea, 753-8510 ASAP and no later than 10/27/89** with a \$40 check payable to Cortland Coalition for Choice. If you can't go, can you help subsidize someone who can't afford the \$40?

Unlike the April March, this will be a *demonstration* at the Lincoln Memorial. Dress warmly and comfortably. Bring a blanket and picnic lunch and be prepared for an overwhelming experience. Dr. Etienne-Emile Baulieu, developer of the abortion inducing pill RU486 will be a speaker.

CHOICE FACTS

- Abortion has existed in every society, regardless of restrictions, since 2500 B.C.
- In 1988 there were 55-60 million abortions worldwide, about half legal and half illegal. (Source: Population Crisis Committee)
- Experts estimate 24-32% of all pregnancies worldwide are terminated by induced abortion. (Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute)
- Worldwide, the Population Crisis Committee estimates 30 million unwanted pregnancies result from contraceptive failure.
- In 1970, there were 13 pharmaceutical companies in contraceptive research. Today there are three. Seven of them were in the United States. Today there is only one.
- The Population Crisis Comm. says the pill and IUD, birth control methods which work routinely after fertilization, blur distinctions between contraception and abortion. Some of the most promising leads for a new birth control vaccine fall into this gray area.
- In the U.S., 34,000 children wait to be adopted. 82% are older, handicapped or have special needs. 51% are minority. Those seeking to adopt overwhelmingly request healthy, white babies.

Important Dates

- Nov. 7** Election Day - Local races in Cortland County
- Nov. 12** Pro-Choice Demonstration (not a march) in Washington DC
- For bus and schedule information*
 Call Andrea Marciano at 753-8510
 to travel with the Cortland group
 Call Ithaca NOW - (607) 273-1526
 Call Syracuse NOW - (315) 455-7866

Money
Due!
Today!

... It took many marches, demonstrations and vigils to end the war in Vietnam.

- Nov. 14** Next Coalition Meeting - 7:30 PM
 YWCA Join this lively bunch!

"It Was in the News"

10-2-89 "Senior Bush aide told Newsweek that after analyzing poll after poll, the White House has concluded that the public does not support any dramatic change in the abortion laws and that there is no *political advantage* (emphasis added) for the president in getting out front on the issue." (*Newsweek* p. 4)

10-2-89 The Justice Dept. will not participate in oral arguments in the upcoming 3 abortion cases except a brief in the Minn. parental consent case. (*Cortland Standard*)

10-11-89 Supreme Court lets stand racketeering award (under RICO law) against anti-abortion protesters, providing \$45,000 in damages and compensation to a Philadelphia abortion clinic. (*Wall Street Journal*)

10-11-89 RU486, the French abortion pill, will make abortion a "nonissue" a few years from now. (Op Ed page, *New York Times*)

10-12-89 The House, in big shift, votes to restore Medicaid funding for abortions for victims of rape or incest. (*New York Times*)

10-13-89 Abortion rights leaders claim an unprecedented turn-around in putting anti-abortion forces on the political run. (*Cortland Standard*)

10-15-89 A series of recent victories has given abortion rights advocates new energy. (*New York Times*)

10-20-89 Buxh vetoes Medicaid funding for abortion for victims of rape or incest.

For our friends picketing at
6 Euclid Ave. every week:

S-A-F-E-T-Y

Support A Fetus Economically for Twenty Years

I pledge to contribute \$5000 a year for 20 years - a total of \$100,000 - to the support of any fetus unabortied because of my presence today.

Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Date _____

Location _____

USE THIS FORM TO MAKE A POINT WHEN YOU
 ENCOUNTER ANTI-ABORTION DEMONSTRATORS

ALBANY LOBBYING

Family Planning Advocates

an advocacy group
 promoting funding
 for birth control

Annual two-day legislative forum
 in Albany Jan. 22-23, 1990

There will be workshops on lobbying, excellent speakers and opportunities to meet with our legislative representatives.

The Cortland contingent usually travels with the Ithaca Planned Parenthood bus to Albany for this event. Call 273-1526 for reservations and additional information.

NOTE: Cortland Coalition for Choice now has an address. If you wish to contact us, write to P.O. Box 385, Cortland, NY 13045. Contributions to defray newsletter and mailing expenses should be made payable to *Cortland Coalition for Choice*.

ABORTION, 1954

get it all the time, from nearly everyone I know. "Why do you do it, Sherry?" they ask. "Why make things, uh, difficult for yourself? I mean, my lord, at *your* age, you certainly don't have anything to be concerned about!"

The "it" that I do, the thing I'm getting all this good unsolicited advice about, consists of campaigning for freedom of choice. In all aspects of life. But now, especially regarding abortion. And they're right, of course; I do deliberately put myself between the rock and hard place—as often and as vociferously as possible. And they're also right about not having anything to be concerned about—so far as the possibility of my ever becoming pregnant again.

But there was a time. . . .

I was twenty-three, pleasantly married, the mother of two planned-for and well-loved children (the number later grew to five) and working nights in a cocktail joint. One night, I got off the 1:20 A.M. bus and started my usual trudge home, cutting the three blocks to two and one-half by what we called the schoolyard shortcut.

I remember the moon was full; I remember thinking. Full moon brings out all the flakes and fruitcakes—and there had been plenty of them that night, grabbing and groping in the bar. I remember thinking how not too many moons distant I would be in a home of my own, a place with decent plumbing and a yard for the kids, the place I'd been working for, between babies, for years. I remember whistling—not out of fear but out of happiness.

And for a long time thereafter, that was all I remembered. It was all I could bear to.

He must have been waiting close to the building, in the shadows. I didn't see him until he was on top of me, and I still remember very little about the act itself—not because I'm trying not to any longer but because when he threw me down on the blacktop, my skull cracked and I blacked out.

One merciful concussion and a couple of hours later, I was again staring at the moons. Yeah, both of 'em. Both full. And all I could think was, Well, no wonder! What else, with *two* full moons?

The back of my head was sticky-wet. Blood. Lots of it. Most of my clothing had



FRANCES I.

been torn off and scattered. And as I tried to get up to retrieve it, I felt a terrible, searing pain in my midsection. Like a knife, I thought. Looking down, I saw this odd, ugly mass of something perched atop my abdomen. It took at least a minute to realize that it was part of my intestine. The knife was no longer there, but it had been, and my guts were oozing out of a neat X.

Holding both hands against something I ~~hope~~ never to feel again in my life, somehow I managed to get up; somehow I managed to get home; and somehow, with a lot of suturing and a couple of weeks' intensive care and an infinite amount of love from a husband who rushed home from three states away and never left again, I managed to survive. Only to find myself wishing, about a month later, that I hadn't.

I was pregnant. And I was *not* pregnant by my husband. I was pregnant by that fiend. And I could not stay that way.

My doctor would not help me, so I feigned migraine to get a prescription for ergotrate—which, I think, gave me a migraine. I went on a two-day castor oil diet and lost five pounds and a quart of hemorrhoidal blood—and nothing else. I scalded the lower two-thirds of my anatomy squatting in hot tubs. I detested the taste of alcohol, but I held my nose and downed two pints of Everclear. And when I woke up, everything intact, I got out the meat mallet and began pounding my almost-healed abdomen.

My husband was ready to stick me in a straitjacket. He wanted me to go through with the pregnancy—or rather, he wanted me not to kill myself, or to be killed by the only sort of abortionist that was available at that time. He thought that once the baby was born, we could both accept it as our

own. And good person that he is, he probably would have tried.

But I could not, not ever. I knew that had I given birth to a child conceived under those circumstances, I would not be able to look at it without remembering. And remembering would mean hating all over again. And I wasn't willing to put either myself or a child through that.

When I was finally able to make him understand this, my husband reluctantly agreed to take me to the local back-alley abortionist—an alcoholic quack who buried more than one of his mistakes. This was in 1954, when a dollar was worth perhaps three times what it is today. I had to hand this drunken butcher one thousand of them before I even got through the door.

After I had swallowed my two-aspirin "anesthetic," I was told to climb up on what resembled a dirty kitchen table and hoist my skirt. There followed a few obscene comments about my underpants and how I could take 'em off now, but I should have—ha! ha!—left 'em on before. Then pain. Eyeball-popping pain. Lots and lots of it. Far more, I'm sure, than was necessary. After the scraping-it-into-an-already-nearly-full-bucket procedure was over, he offered me twenty of my one thousand bucks back for a quick blow job.

Another trip to the hospital, another ten-day stay, a little bout with peritonitis, a half-dozen transfusions (all of which we could ill afford and which put me back to square one when it came to owning my own home) and the old girl was good as new. Almost—but not quite. Not in the sense that "good" is docile or tractable or pliant or amenable or submissive or for one second willing to sit silently by while anyone tries to bring back the back-alley quack—the one *they'll* never have to patronize—not because they don't have abortions but because they do have pull.

Twenty-seven years ago, I was physically and financially brutalized, not only by two cretin-thugs—the first who raped, the second who robbed—but by a myopic, bluenosed, and totally hypocritical society: a society that revered ignorance and made it the criterion for most of its laws; a society that made it a felony for any woman to own and control her own internal organs; a society which really hasn't changed very much for the better, and which is now on the verge of reversing the only good thing to have happened in the 1970s.

That's why, even at my age, I do what I do. ■

Sherry Matulis is a poet and science fiction writer in Peoria, Illinois. This article was adapted from her longer piece, "Never Again," published by Protect Abortion Rights in Madison, Wisconsin.

FPA FACT SHEET

Actual Case Histories of Illegal Abortions

*from the Official Journal of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Obstetrics and Gynecology, Volume 20, August 1962*

"C.H., a 29-year old Black woman with three children, was admitted with a history of vomiting, diarrhea, lower abdominal cramps for three days and vaginal bleeding for one day. Her last menstrual period occurred 12 weeks prior to admission. Examination revealed lower abdominal tenderness and the uterus was consistent in size with a 12-week pregnancy. The cervix was dilated and some tissue was presenting. Her condition was deteriorating, and antibiotics and blood transfusions were administered and a curettage was performed. In spite of this, her condition continued to go downhill, and on the fourth hospital day an exploratory operation was performed and there was gross pus in the pelvis and a 1" perforation in the top of the uterus. A hysterectomy was performed accompanied by additional blood transfusions. Her condition continued to deteriorate, and death occurred on the 9th hospital day. On the 3rd day a history of intra-uterine douche with a detergent 4 days prior to admission had been obtained."

"M.G., a 25-year old with three children, was admitted 13 weeks after her last menstrual period because of vaginal bleeding and lower crampy abdominal pain. One week before she began to have mild vaginal bleeding and on the day before admission she experienced chills and high fever accompanied by crampy lower abdominal pain and increased vaginal bleeding. Four hours after admission a 3-month fetus was passed. A curettage was performed during which the patient went into shock. After receiving four transfusions and medication to raise her blood pressure she improved transiently. At this time she admitted self-administration of an intra-uterine douche of soap and a cupful of bleach. As supportive measures had failed to stabilize the patient's blood pressure, an emergency hysterectomy was begun. Cardiac arrest occurred just prior to the abdominal incision but responded to open-heart massage, and the hysterectomy was completed. The patient died in the recovery room 26 hours after admission."

"F.M., who is a 25-year old Spanish American woman with three children, came to the hospital with a history of foul-smelling discharge, bleeding and abdominal cramping for one week. On examination the

cervix was found to be dilated, and foul-smelling tissue was found in the vagina. The uterus was 4-month size and tender. The patient had attempted to induce an abortion with a crochet hook one week before admission. The patient was treated with antibiotics and antitoxins and 48 hours later the patient went into shock. She became jaundiced and began to develop bruising under the skin and into the eyelids. She also went into kidney failure and was treated with an artificial kidney on two different occasions. She gradually improved and was sent home well after 31 days of hospitalization."

"B.C., a 20-year old white woman with one child, was admitted to the hospital with a history of having attempted an intra-uterine douche using a solution of green soap and glycerine. Following the douche she experienced severe lower abdominal and shoulder pain. Examination revealed a diffusely rigid abdomen with lower abdominal tenderness. The exquisitely tender uterus was consistent with a 12-week gestation. The cervix was soft and open, with a brown soapy discharge. Because of the history and findings, an exploratory operation was performed. The entire abdomen was filled with a brown soapy fluid. This same material was seen dripping from the fimbria of both tubes and exuding from a perforation on the posterior wall of the uterus. A total hysterectomy was performed. She survived and was discharged on the eighth post-operative day."

When New York State liberalized its abortion law and implemented a humane policy which included Medicaid funding for poor women, many thought the dark days of self-induced and back-alley abortions were over. These case histories are a sober reminder of what could have been in the future if a woman's right to choose an abortion is in anyway restricted. Anti-choice forces have tried to limit access to abortion by cutting off Medicaid funding, mandating parental consent and changing insurance laws. Clearly, abortion must be kept legal and safe for all women regardless of age or source of funding if we are never to return to these painful and often deadly days.

— PAID ADVERTISEMENT —

Every child a wanted child Every child a loved child



Parenthood By Choice

Support the Cortland Coalition For Choice

Please add me to the mailing list because I support the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision giving a woman the right to choose a safe, legal abortion.

Signature _____ Phone _____

Name _____

Address _____

☐ I want to receive the monthly newsletter (\$10 minimum contribution)

☐ I'd like a Pro-Choice Bumper Sticker (\$1 each)

I enclose a contribution of ☐ \$10 ☐ \$15 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other

☐ I want to be more involved

Contributions are used for CFC programs

Send coupons to: CFC • PO Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Pro-choice survey of officials running for election this fall
- Sept. 22nd Legislative Brunch at Cortland Country Club

— PAID ADVERTISEMENT —

PLEASE

Sign and Return

CORTLAND COALITION for CHOICE

We the undersigned respect the constitutional rights to privacy, personal choice and human dignity for all persons who may face an abortion decision.

We believe that all women should have the right to seek and obtain a medically safe and legal abortion under dignified and respectable conditions.

We believe that the best way to make abortion less necessary is not to burn, bomb, threaten or harass clinics that provide abortion services, but rather to support needed efforts to help women and men prevent unintended pregnancy in a more successful and responsible manner.

We strongly believe that each and every child has the right to be born wanted and loved.

I authorize my name to be affixed to the above advertisement for publication in the Cortland Standard.

Signature: _____

Name (Please print): _____

Address: _____

City, state, zip: _____

Phone: _____

Cortland Coalition for Choice is sponsoring this ad which will be accompanied by picture of a local multigenerational Pro-Choice family or the like. We need your help! We are asking for a minimum donation of \$5.00 to defray costs, and if you can, \$25.00 would really be appreciated. However, anyone, regardless of one's ability to pay can participate in the Coalition. Make checks payable to CFC and send to P.O. Box 385, Cortland, New York 13045.

Feel free to gather other names on this paper, collect money or duplicate this ad and pass it on to friends, relatives, whom ever would be supportive and interested.

PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO A FRIEND IF YOU HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED ONE!

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE

Dear Friends:

In response to the Webster Decision recently handed down by the Supreme Court, the Cortland Coalition for Choice is once again coming together to promote awareness regarding the impact of this decision upon all of us. Since the question of a person's right to choose has now been brought to the state level, the Cortland Coalition is focusing on what we can do locally to organize, educate, and generate support for keeping abortion safe and legal. We would like any suggestions, concerns, or information you may have regarding this issue. Below is a list of ways in which you may want to help. Would you please check off anything you may be interested in doing and return the list to us?

Are you interested in:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Being on our mailing list | Y | N |
| 2. Receiving a monthly newsletter (\$5.00 per year) | Y | N |
| 3. Obtaining signatures on petitions(enclosed is the one we're using) | Y | N |
| 4. Writing letters to local/state legislators | Y | N |
| 5. Coming to the Coalition meetings (every three to four weeks) | Y | N |
| 6. Serving on a Coaliton subcommittee | Y | N |
| 7. Going to the Washington Pro-Choice Demonstration (Nov. 12th) | Y | N |

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ NAME OF YOUR COUNTY LEGISLATOR _____

Your response will be greatly appreciated. Please mail this letter (and check for \$5.00 payable to Cortland Coalition for Choice if you wish to receive the monthly newsletter) to :

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE

BOX 385

CORTLAND, NEW YORK 13045

Thanks once again.

Sincerely,

Cortland Coalition for Choice

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

Dec. 1989 / Jan., 1990 — Vol. 1, Number 3

MS Magazine is Off the Newstands

Anne Summers, editor of *MS* since 1987, told a very surprised audience at the recent NOW conference in Syracuse that *MS*, the mainstream feminist magazine, will no longer be published in its current form. There is a possibility that its owner (also publisher of *Working Woman* and *SASSY*, the teen sister to *MS*, will continue *MS* as a newsletter without advertising.

The demise of this 16-year-old magazine, founded by Gloria Steinem, was caused by censorship . . . a threat to boycott advertisers by three conservative organizations: The Moral Majority, Women AGLOW and Focus on the Family. These same groups boycotted convenient store chains two years ago because they carried *Playboy*. That magazine survived only because of its financial diversification. *MS* did not have the financial base to combat this threat!

SASSY, the source of financial support for *MS*, was the target of the boycott. The groups objected to articles in *SASSY* entitled, "My Best Friend Died of AIDS," "Four Gay Kids," "Before You Lose Your Virginity" and "Male Adolescent Sexuality." All of these articles provided very responsible sexuality education.

SASSY was one of the fastest growing teen magazines but their six major advertisers (including Tampex, Maybelline, Gillette and Revlon) pulled out because of pressure from these groups. *SASSY* will survive as a watered down version of what made it such a popular and truthful magazine. *MS*, which grew along with the women's movement in this country, and documented many of the issues important to feminists, now takes its place in history.

CHOICE FACTS

- The mortality rate of all abortions is approximately one death per 200,000 abortions. This means that abortion is seven times safer than childbirth and carries the same risk of death as does receiving a shot of penicillin. (1982 statistics)

- 1.1 million teens get pregnant every year. About 3 of 4 of these are unintended. Half of all pregnancies in the U.S. are mistimed or unintended.

LEGALIZED ABORTION:

What Does the Future Hold?

A new term is in session for the U.S. Supreme Court and another battle is about to be fought over keeping abortion safe, legal and accessible for all women. What promises to spark much public fury are two abortion related cases on the Court's agenda that threaten to further restrict access to abortion. Either case could have adverse or devastating repercussions on *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion in 1973. Although these cases jeopardize all women's rights, we must remember that any ruling most adversely affects young and/or poor women's choices.

A third case was settled in Illinois by compromise among the parties, averting yet another opportunity for the Supreme Court to restrict abortion rights.

Both cases before the Court focus on parental consent for minors. In *State of Ohio v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health*, several key issues are at stake:

- (1) There is a requirement that minors choose at the outset of the proceedings whether to seek waiver of parental notification on the basis of "maturity," "best interests" or both.

- (2) There is a requirement that minors prove by an especially rigorous standard of "clear and convincing evidence" that they are entitled to a waiver.

- (3) There is failure to preserve confidentiality because minors are required to sign their names to court papers.

- (4) Finally, there is failure to provide an expeditious procedure. The bypass sometimes took as long as 23 days. In totality, these provisions apparently mean that a woman 16 years of age or younger is denied or delayed in receiving due process under the law as other people (adults) are entitled to.

The second (and similar) case, *Hodgson v. State of Minnesota*, involves the following important issues:

- (1) A 1981 amendment to the Minor's Consent Act requires health care providers to notify BOTH of a minor's biological parents prior to performing an abortion. It also mandated that this notice be in writing to both parents and that a 48 hour waiting period be observed before performing the abortion. No exceptions are provided for divorced parents or couples not married. Even teens who are already parents or married must comply.

- (2) A judicial bypass is available if the minor can convince the state court judge that she is "mature and capable of giving informed consent" or that an abortion without notice is in her "best interest."

Both of these cases focus on parental consent, but it is ludicrous to mandate or force parent/child communication if it has not existed previously. Communication cannot be forced by laws. Free dialog between children and parents needs to be developed before a crisis arises, not after.

THE ISSUES IN ILLINOIS deserve examination even though the case has been settled. Illinois regulations deal with more general accessibility for women seeking abortions. There are five requirements involving facilities and personnel connected to abortions:

(1) Facilities performing first trimester abortions (including private physician's offices) must comply with licensing standards demanding functional equivalence to a full-care hospital.

(2) Physicians performing abortions must also perform a pregnancy test on the patient, whether or not one has already been done by another physician.

(3) Medical personnel engaging in abortion counseling "shall have no financial interest in the patient's decision." (This might exclude counseling by physicians.) Other regulations previously required counselors to disseminate medically inappropriate or harmful information.

(4) Various physical plants and staffing requirements were medically unjustified and inflated the cost of an abortion beyond the means of many women.

(5) Ambulatory surgical clinics wishing to offer abortion services must first obtain a "certificate of need."

These Illinois statutes were found unconstitutional by the Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. After the State Attorney General appealed the ruling, the parties reached a compromise agreement.

We could use your

PRO-CHOICE HELP

Money and volunteers are always needed. This is a good group to work with! Please clip and mail to CCFC, PO Box 385, Cortland NY 13045. Make checks payable to CCFC.

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP OUT BY:

- a) Subscribing (\$5) to this newsletter _____
- b) Writing legislators on Choice _____
- c) Public speaking _____
- d) Research/library work _____
- e) Writing for newsletter _____
- f) Computer entry _____
- g) Telephone tree organizing _____
- h) Go to Albany in January _____
- i) Other skills and suggestions _____

Enclosed is \$5 for the newsletter and/or an additional donation for other coalition expenses

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Important Dates

- Jan. 9** Next Coalition Meeting - 7:30 PM
YWCA *Join this lovely bunch!*
- Jan. 22** Supreme Court Roe vs. Wade Decision 11th Anniversary - Albany Demonstration
- Jan. 23-24** Legislative Conference (in Albany) of the Family Planning Advocates, workshops, lobbying ... *Gloria Steinem is one of the speakers*

"It Was in the News"

10-25-89 Stringent curbs on abortion pass in Pennsylvania. High court test is seen. (*New York Times*)

10-28-89 Pres. Bush vetoes 2nd bill easing abortion spending bills. (*New York Times*)

10-31-89 GOP women raise voices for the right to an abortion. Congresswomen plan to make their case to the president. (*NY Times*)

11-8-89 Florio wins New Jersey governorship. Signs of a robust abortion vote ... were apparent. (*Cortland Standard*)

11-11-89 Bush plays down the issue of abortion ... Abortion was one of the few national issues at work and Republicans have been worried for weeks over how it might hurt them at the polls. (*New York Times*)

11-11-89 GOP women tie their support to abortion issue. Stalwart fundraisers will aid only "pro-choice" Republicans. (*NY Times*)

11-13-89 Abortion Rights Rallies: Capital to Coast. Tens of thousands of people rally in the nation's capital on behalf of abortion rights, celebrating recent political victories (in NJ, VA,, NY City) ; vowing to redouble their efforts in battles to come. (*NY Times*)

11-13-89 Pro-Choice Advocates Rally in four upstate cities, joining hundreds of thousands in cities across the country in a show of solidarity over abortion rights. (*Cortland Standard*)

11-17-89 Catholic Bishop bans legislator from Communion: She's Pro-Choice. (*Cortland Standard*)

11-18-89 Banned Assemblywoman still Pro-choice. (*Cortland Standard*)

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

Feb. 1990 — Vol. 1, Number 4

THE DOMINO EFFECT

NOW Boycott Continues

Excerpted from Boycott News (published by COOP America), Winter 1989.

Domino's, with 32% of the market, ranks second in U.S. pizza sales. The boycott began when owner Tom Monaghan cancelled a NOW function that was to be held at Domino's Farms, a publicly available facility. The cancellation was based upon Monaghan's religious beliefs against abortions.

The Washtenaw (Michigan) Co. Chapter of NOW complained to the ACLU, which cited Section 302 of the Civil Rights Act which bans discrimination on the basis of religion by private businesses which open its facilities to the public.

The Michigan Coalition to Boycott Domino's says Monaghan's practices span the gamut of possible violations, from women's rights, to anti-union and discriminatory employee practices, socially irresponsible and environmentally unsound development, and support of right-wing activities at home and abroad.

Eight Illinois construction unions have gained community support in boycotting Domino's. The UAW has initiated similar action based on Domino's purchase of fleets of foreign-made delivery trucks.

A civil liberties lawsuit is pending concerning a Domino's employee who was physically forced into a barber shop to meet company hair length requirements. Four racial discrimination complaints in Michigan are being investigated. In addition, drug testing of employees and applicants, low wages and firing of union sympathizers are common practices at Domino's.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

(1) Share these facts with others. Request endorsement of the boycott from groups you belong to. For more information, contact: Coalition to Boycott Domino's Pizza, c/o LASC, 4120 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

(2) Let Domino's Pizza know you are boycotting them. Write to Tom Monaghan, CEO, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright, Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

CHOICE FACTS

- In only **nine** states do both houses of the legislature favor keeping abortion a legal option. New York is one of the nine.
- It has been revealed through an unnamed source that First Lady Barbara Bush, one son, and all the other women in the First Family are pro-choice.
- In Minnesota, the Hodgson case before the Supreme Court asks a reversal of Roe v. Wade and revocation of the constitutionally guaranteed right to privacy.

Ideas for Action in 1990

(1) Register to vote! Have you moved since you last registered? How about friends?

(2) Vote only for Pro-Choice candidates. Even for local elections . . . because politicians use local offices to gain state and national positions.

(3) Wear a Pro-Choice button. Display a Pro-Choice bumper sticker. You'll be surprised at the positive responses.

(4) Sign those folks up for our newsletter . . .

OUR GOAL . . . 500 households by October, 1990

(5) Take a lesson from CARD. Write one pro-choice card or letter every week to an editor or elected official.

(6) Give donations to CCFC

(7) Help us organize a brunch in September for candidates running for state and federal offices.

(8) Help plan a pro-choice fundraising theatre night at CRT with a kick-off cocktail hour/social event.

(9) Do business with pro-choice persons/businesses. Ask first.

(10) Support obstetricians/gynecologists who are pro-choice and provide vital abortion services. Ask for the doctor's position before making the appointment

(11) Let's be more assertive in grabbing media coverage. The other side is getting all the attention. Don't let anything go by without comment.

"WE BELIEVE IN THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE ..."

Full Page Ad Marks Roe v. Wade Anniversary

Over 1000 names filled the back page of the first section of the Syracuse Post-Standard/Herald Journal editions on Jan. 22nd. The ad, including Cortland Coalition for Choice, makes visible the support and the political clout for pro-choice in Central New York. Many organizations are listed, as well as prominent individuals.

Locally, CCFC held a fun and fundraising contest to observe the anniversary. Participants submitted guesses on how many Right-to-Life picketers would be demonstrating at the hospital or 6 Euclid Ave., then made a pledge per picketer (checks should be made out to CCFC, PO Box 385, Cortland, NY). No "official" count has yet been announced, but we do know that fewer people demonstrated than usual for such occasions. We'll keep you posted on who made the closest guess and, therefore, "won" the game.

1989 In Retrospect

NATIONALLY

April . . . 600,000 people march for women's right to choose safe and legal abortion. A full bus from Cortland participates in this historic occasion.

July . . . Supreme Court Webster Case turns back abortion decisions to state legislatures. Opens door to overturning Roe v. Wade.

October . . . Congress votes to restore Medicaid funding for poor women in cases of rape/incest and for Washington DC to pay for abortions with its own funds. 27 Congressmen change from anti- to pro-choice votes. Bush vetoes this legis-lation. Florida lawmakers reject the governor's efforts to impose abortion restrictions in a special session of the state legislature

November . . . Election Day brings 3 BIG VICTORIES for pro-choice candidates: Dinkins, Florio and Wilder. The Republican Party begins to question the political liability of their anti-choice stance.

November . . . Pro-choice marches in 50 cities nationwide. 300,000 at Washington rally. where many politicians speak. Cortland CFC well represented again and uses event to sell bumper stickers, netting \$300. *Still available:* "I'm a Pro-Choice Voter" and the big hit in Washington, "I Have A Uterus and I Vote."

Important Dates

Feb. 7 Next Coalition Meeting - 7:30 PM
YWCA. Help plan and prepare for pro-choice victories in NY state elections this year. *Join this lovely bunch!*

Feb. 12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday -
We celebrate by supporting choice and the rights of all people to control their own destiny

WHAT THE KINDER, GENTLER
PRESIDENT WANTS TO PROTECT,
BUT CAN'T...



PRE-FETAL CELL GROWTH
CONCEIVED BY RAPE
AND/OR INCEST

...AND WHAT HE CAN
PROTECT, BUT WON'T..

(WILEY)

Cortland
Standard
12/13/89

"Choice Headlines"

11-30-89 Survey Finds Split on Abortion Persists ... 41% say abortion should be "generally available" and 42% want stricter limits than currently exist. *But only 15% say abortion should not be permitted at all.* (NYTimes)

12-4-89 Senate Repub. Leader Urges Caution on Abortion Issues (Cortland Standard)

12-4-89 Church Speaking Up More in Abortion Debate. Bishop Hubbard of Albany says it's important for all Catholic public officials to work against abortion. State Senate Majority Leader Ralph Marino, Roman Catholic Republican, said church leaders have every right to preach against abortion but should recognize that lawmakers represent more than just Catholics. Cuomo has wondered aloud whether bishops will begin barring communion for all Catholics who support the death penalty. (Cortland Standard)

12-11-89 U.S. Data on Abortion Censored. House Unit Says Government Failed to Report Evidence on the Relative Safety of Abortion. (New York Times)

1-12-90 After Fight on Abortion, Woman's Coma Ends. Doctors said an abortion could improve her chances for survival. The operation culminated a wrenching 2-week court battle for her husband, who fought abortion opponents all the way to the Supreme Court to gain legal guardianship of his 32-year-old wife and the right to decide on her abortion and, perhaps, her last chance for life. Mrs. Klein has emerged from the coma. (NYTimes)

1-12-90 Federal Judge Blocks a New Anti-Abortion Law in Pennsylvania (NY Times)

1-18-90 GOP Blurs Abortion Focus, Dismaying Some in Party. Republican leaders have begun a subtle operation to recast their party's approach to abortion in 1990 elections and the effort is already stirring concern in the party's anti-abortion wing. (NY Times)

DEMOCRATIC
REFORM IN
CHINA!



U.S. SENATE

ALFONSE M. D'AMATO (R-C-RTL)
Took Office: 1981



Area Represented: All of New York State

520 Hart Senate Ofc. Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6542

- D.C. Approp.
- Title X Amnt.

One Penn Plaza, Room 1635
New York, NY 10001
(212) 947-7393

Appropriations; Banking, Housing and Urban
Affairs; Intelligence (Select)

DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN (D-L)
Took Office: 1977



Area Represented: All of New York State

464 Russell Senate Ofc. Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4451

+ D.C. Approp.
+ Title X Amnt.

733 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017
(212) 661-5150

Environment and Public Works; Finance;
Foreign Relations; Rules and Administration;
Joint Tax

UPSTATE

25th C.D.

SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT (R) Took Office: 1983



Area Represented: All of Cortland, Otsego, Schoharie, most
or some of Oneida, Montgomery, Delaware, Madison and
Tompkins counties

1127 Longworth House Office Bldg.
(202) 225-3665

+ D.C. Approp.
+ Medicaid Expn.

Federal Bldg., Room 200
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 793-8146

Aging (Select); Public Works & Transportation;
Science & Technology

U.S. HOUSE

UPSTATE

122nd A.D.

CLARENCE RAPPLEYEA (R) Took Office: 1973



Area Represented: All of Cortland County and parts of
Chenango and Cayuga

933 LOB/(518) 455-3751

42 South Broad Street
Norwich, NY 13815
(607) 336-7160

MINORITY LEADER; Rules

- Minors
- Medicaid
o Family Planning

All Assemblymembers can be reached
c/o Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12248

UPSTATE

50th S.D.

NYS SENAT

JAMES L. SEWARD (R-C)

Took Office: 1987

Area Represented: Cayuga, Cortland, Otsego, Tompkins,
parts of Chenango County

809 LOB/ (518) 455-3131

41 South Main Street
Oneonta, NY 13820
(607) 432-5524

+ Medicaid



All State Senators can be reached
c/o Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247

KEY TO SYMBOLS

Votes recorded for legislators are most recent taken on issues
listed below, regardless of house in which they served.

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATION

- Legal Abortion** 1970, to permit abortion to be performed by
physician within first 24 weeks of pregnancy.
(Signed into law.)
- Repeal** 1972, to repeal legal abortion. (Passed but
vetoed by Governor Rockefeller.)
- Minors** 1976, 1978, 1980, 1982, to restrict access of
women under 18 to legal abortion. (None of
these bills became law. Since 1982, no such
bill has come out of committee.)
- Family Planning** 1982, to increase state funds for family
planning. (Signed into law.)
- Medicaid** 1978-88, to eliminate state Medicaid funding
for poor women's abortions. (None of these
bills has passed both houses.)
- Health Insurance** 1982-87, to prohibit health insurance
coverage of abortion. (None of these bills has
become law.)

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

- D.C.** 1988, to prohibit the District of Columbia
from using its local taxes to provide abortions
for poor women in the District. (Passed.)
- Appropriations** (U.S. Senate)
- Title X** 1988, amendment to prohibit use of Title X
federal family planning funds for school-
based health clinics. (Failed.)
- Amendment** (U.S. Senate)
- D.C.** 1988, to prohibit the District of Columbia from
using its local taxes to provide abortions for
poor women in the District. (Passed.)
- Appropriations** (U.S. House)
- Medicaid** 1988, Medicaid amendment to exclude
abortion funding for victims of rape and incest.
(Passed.)
- Expansion** (U.S. House)
- RHEA** 1988, Congressman Bill Green's Reproductive
Sponsor Health Equity Act, which would restore federal
(U.S. House) funding for abortion services and nullify the
Hyde Amendment (Co-sponsors listed.)

ABBREVIATIONS

- D Democrat
R Republican
L Liberal
C Conservative
RTL Right to Life
LOB Legislative Office Building
CAP Capitol Building

SYMBOLS

- + pro-choice vote or record
- anti-choice vote or record
o absent or not voting
* sponsor of RHEA

Cortland Coalition for Choice

January 31, 1990

Coordinating Committee

Betsy Gillim
Holly Greer
Ruth Grunberg
Colleen Kattau
Andrea Marciano
Tracey Messinger
Kathy Russell
Pat Shedd
Kathy Smith
Henry Steck
Janet Steck

Dear Friend,

The Cortland Coalition for Choice is currently organizing to defend and advance a women's right to choice. While we plan on a variety of activities, we are planning ahead in preparation for lobbying activities in the State Legislature this spring and for next fall's election. Since the Supreme Court's Webster decision, grassroots networks of women and men throughout the country have reactivated their networks to defend the constitutional right of free choice, as set forth in Roe v. Wade. As you know, abortion rights are under severe attack at the state and federal level. We believe -- with a majority of Americans -- that a women's right to choose is a precious right that must be defended.

We are calling on those who agree with us to join us and to volunteer to assist in our activities. We know that many of you are busy with work and home and cannot be as fully active as you might wish; we will take your schedules into account. On the attached form, we have listed a variety activities and we hope you will volunteer to participate with us. We need as much help as we can get.

You may have responded to our earlier form. As we have grown, we find we need to update and reorganize our list of participants. So won't you please take a minute to complete the attached form, even if you filled out an earlier one.

And, yes, we do need financial help. We appeal to you to become a dues-paying member: our dues of \$5 a year will bring you our newsletter. But as our financial needs will grow in the future, we will deeply appreciate any additional financial support you can provide. Funds will go to offset the cost of our newsletter, postage, newspaper ads, and other expenses that even an all-volunteer group encounters. Please give generously.

If you wish to join and strengthen our efforts, please fill out the attached form and send it, along with any financial contribution you wish to make, to:

Cortland Coalition for Choice
Box 385
Cortland, N.Y. 13045

With best wishes for the New Year,

Sincerely,

Cortland Coalition for Choice

P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, New York 13045

Return to: Cortland Coalition for Choice, Box 385, Cortland N.Y. 13045

1 - Date _____/_____/_____

2 - Name_____

3 - Address_____

4 - City/State/Zip_____

5 - Home Phone:_____

6 - Business Phone:_____

We would like to know whether and how you are willing help. We have listed a number of possibilities below. Please let us know which of these you would be willing to help with. Do not answer if you do not wish to be involved with a particular activity.

7 - Write Letter to Editor: ☐ Yes ☐ Yes, but need supporting materials;
☐ Sometimes

8 - Emergency Financial Contribution: ☐ Yes ☐ Sometimes

9 - Serve as Speaker/Resource Person: ☐ Yes ☐ Sometimes

10 - Write Elected Officials: ☐ Yes ☐ Sometimes

11 - Lobby Out of Town: ☐ Yes ☐ Sometimes

12 - Participate in "flying squad" (24 hour notice for demonstration, letter writing, or other urgent activities: ☐ Yes, when free.

13 - Serve as Caller on Telephone Tree: ☐ Yes

14 - Recruit Supporters/Members: ☐ Yes ☐ Sometimes

15 - Participate in Local Demonstration: ☐ Yes ☐ Sometimes

16 - Provide Administrative/Organizing Assistance: ☐ Yes ☐ Sometimes

17 - Other (please indicate):_____

=====

YES, I will help with Legislative/Election Brunch: ☐

=====

Office Use Only:

Logged _____

Dues _____

Contribution _____

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

March 1990 — Vol. 1, Number 5

Civil Rights & Pro-Choice

Congress is gearing up to redress the Supreme Court's horrendous blows to the gains won by the Civil Rights Movement 26 years ago while at the same time - in states and communities across the nation - women are making it as clear as possible to their lawmakers that they want a choice regarding the matter of abortion.

The Supreme Court dealt a near death blow to *Roe v. Wade* last July by turning over to the states crucial decisions about abortion. It was a slick (if not cynical) move; it throws whole communities into turmoil and creates consensus among male politicians that this is one issue to avoid because there is no compromise. On that they are right but it is a telling commentary that women are not allowed into the debate in such a manner as to alter the political discourse to address the bottom line issue: *Women's Sexual Rights*. Women's civil rights are protected under Title IV and IX of the Civil Rights Act but their sexual rights continues to be an area that has been obfuscated and flatly denied by males in power (and conservative women who share the male ideology regarding women's sexuality).

When a group of women are murdered by a crazed man in Canada because he did not like feminists it becomes abundantly clear that the issue of choice is about more than civil rights or abortion: it is about the fundamental right of every woman to be who she is as a person and as a sexual being. That means, quite bluntly, the right to be heard about how she feels regarding the way she presents and represents herself in the larger community.

Women have an unalterable right not to be violated in their persons or to have their ideas, feelings and beliefs about themselves proscribed by others who refuse to even listen to them.. In this regard, it is easy to see why the issue of abortion has been mired in a morass of emotional hysterics, attempts at rational discussion, and the predictable religious authoritarianism which traditionally has never cared for women's rights, let alone sexual rights.

When women are truly accorded the basic rights to be who they are perhaps a saner atmosphere will emerge surrounding the question of abortion. Until then, our only alternative is to press our elected representatives statewide and especially in Congress to accord women an equal voice and a true measure of equality surrounding decisions where their very lives may be at stake. Dodging the hard questions of choice and women's fundamental rights are not going to take us down the path of a healthier, more compassionate, and truly human society. It promises only a continuation of the same old rigid system that has denied women any say about themselves or the society they wish to live in. And that system grounded in a man's view of the world is too worn out and too dangerous to carry us through to the 21st century.

Pete Banner-Haley

Asistant Professor, History, Colgate University



Our members at Albany Voice for Choice Rally Jan. 21

RECENT ACTIONS

(1) Note that several letters per week on pro-choice issues appear in the *Cortland Standard*. Keep it up! Those letters support the silent persons who have made difficult decisions about abortion. The score is even at this time; there have been an equal number of pro and anti-choice letters printed since January.

(2) Our *Pledge-A-Picket Fundraiser* earned the Coalition about \$50. Various people pledged 5 to 10 cents for each Right-to-Lifer demonstrating in front of the hospital Jan. 20 - the anniversary weekend of *Roe v. Wade*. The *Cortland Standard* reported 70-80 demonstrators this year; it seemed like 100-150 last year.

EXCELLENT NEWS!

Congress is attempting to codify *Roe v. Wade* into national law with HR 3200 and S.1912. **Write in support of this legislation.** Tell others to do the same.

The Coalition for Choice welcomes your input, comments and articles for this newsletter.

CHOICE FACTS

- Worldwide, one woman dies every three minutes from an illegal abortion.
- Nick Spano, State Senator representing some of Westchester County, experienced a political conversion similar to those happening across the country. He once accepted the RTL endorsement and always voting anti-choice. Spano announced on Jan. 22nd that he has rethought his position and is now pro-choice! **Welcome, Nick!**
- Congressman Henry Hyde, author of the amendment that banned federal funding for abortion, once introduced himself to an RTL convention as a 626 month old fetus. Ah, grow up Henry.
- Twice as many people will cross party lines to vote pro-choice compared to voting anti-choice.
- 225 anti-abortion bills are pending in hostile state legislatures.

Sign Up A New Subscriber . . .

If every one of you who receives this mailing got just ONE other person interested in receiving this newsletter, we would surpass our dream of a grassroots network of 500 solidly prochoice households/voters by Sept. 1990. *Please help!* Send names to our PO box or call some one on the coordinating committee. We can do it with your help!

Legislative Brunch

Date: Sept. 8 or 22, 1990

Location: Cortland Country Club

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Legislators:

Seward, Rappleyea and
their opponents

Purpose:

To create an opportunity for county residents to have a direct line to our candidates and to hopefully convey a pro-choice presence.

*All Coalition for Choice
meetings
are on the first
Wednesday
of each
month
at the
YWCA
at
7:30 p.m.*

*Paid your Dues?
Sent in your
Survey?*

We need you!

*Send subscription
price \$5.00 plus
more if you can
to:*

C.C.F.C.

PO Box 385

Cortland N.Y.

13045

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

April 1990 — Vol. 1, Number 6

New York Legislative Watch

The annual budget deadlock continues in Albany as we go to press. The budget includes some funding for abortion, including Medicaid appropriations, to guarantee that low-income women will be able to get safe and legal abortions.

Last spring's Medicaid vote was a cliffhanger. Three new legislators have not yet voted on abortion legislation and, therefore, their positions are not known. They are: Sen. Efrain Gonzalez Jr. (D-Bronx), Ass. Mike Balboni (R-Nassau), and Ass. John Bonacic (R-Rockland).

If the budget is still unresolved as you read this article, please contact our state officials, Sen. James Seward and Assemblyman (Minority Leader) Clarence Rappleyea at the Legislative Office Bldg, Albany, NY. Remind them that abortion funding cannot be bargained or traded away. This is an election year, so they should be paying more attention to the voice of the electorate than usual.

We are also lobbying for an increase of \$18.75 million in funding for family planning. These additional funds would reduce unintended pregnancies, reduce the rates of sexually transmitted diseases, and improve access to family planning for adolescents and women in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Prevention is both more humane and more economical than coping with the consequences.

You can write to Governor Mario Cuomo (Executive Chambers, State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224). Thank him for his strong and continuing commitment to reproductive choice and urge his support for increases in family planning funding.

ELECTION SEASON PLANS

Just a reminder – as November draws near and election year rhetoric starts making headlines – our legislative brunch in September is the opportunity to ask the candidates *substantive questions and demonstrate the commitment of pro-choice voters.*

We are also planning newspaper ads for the fall and designing a comprehensive questionnaire to send to all candidates. Pro-choice buttons/bumper stickers/signs will be available for sale. We welcome your assistance with upcoming events.

APA SUPPORTS CHOICE

On March 16, 1989 the American Psychological Assn. passed the following motion to educate state legislatures on the psychological consequences of abortion:

- In 1969 the APA identified freedom of reproductive choice as a mental health and child welfare issue. Efforts are being made in the states to pass laws recriminalizing abortion or limiting access, especially to poor women.

- Erroneous assertions about widespread, severe negative psychological effects of abortion are being made to argue for these laws.

- A review of the best scientific evidence by an APA panel of experts finds these assertions without basis in fact.

- The preponderous of scientific data supports the conclusion that freedom of choice and a woman's control over her critical life decisions promotes psychological health.

- The APA directs its Exec. VP and its CEO to undertake an immediate initiative to disseminate scientific information on reproductive freedom to policy-makers, the public and state psychology associations.

Choice Act

Boehlert Announces Support

A Freedom of Choice Act to put Roe v. Wade into statutory form is gaining momentum in Congress. If approved, this law would stop the flood of test cases to the Supreme Court and end state-by-state attempts to overturn Roe v. Wade. Short of a constitutional amendment, this is the best way to guarantee freedom of choice – with one law applying to all 50 states.

Rep. Sherwood Boehlert recently endorsed this legislation (Bill #HR 3700). Please write or call to thank him for his pro-choice position. It is important to ask other federal legislators for their support. Tell Senators Moynihan and D'Amato to support bill #S1912. They are still avoiding the issue. We'll keep you informed on the status of this important legislation.

AT&T has stopped contributing to Planned Parenthood because of its pro-choice stand. **CALL THE AT&T comment line: 800-842-8369** to register your dissatisfaction. Also remind them that, as a consumer, you can use alternative long distance companies with more enlightened views.

Important Meeting May 2 730 PM 4WCA Please Attend

CALENDAR

Monthly meetings are held the **first Wednesday of every month** at the Cortland YWCA, Clayton Ave., at 7:30 pm. *Join this lively bunch!*

APRIL 4TH - MAY 2ND - JUNE 6TH

JULY 20th Anniversary of New York State's legalization of abortion. NY was the first state to allow second trimester abortions and our state's law served as a model for the Roe v. Wade decision. Today, NY is one of only a handful of states with solid pro-choice majorities in their legislatures.

SEPT 22: Legislative Brunch
(Remember, this is an important election year)

And this is equality?

Since the Supreme Court ruling on July 3rd, there has been legislation to establish an across the board set of restrictions which anti-choice supporters believe have broad public support. Such bills include requirements for parental consent or notification, a ban on abortion for sex selection purposes or as a means of birth control, and mandatory waiting periods.

These abortion restrictions also have their sexist aspects, as highlighted in the debate before the Ohio legislature on parental notification requirements. One provision of the Ohio bill would have required notification of the pregnant girl's parents before she could have an abortion. When pro-choice Representative Jane Campbell offered an amendment requiring notification of the boy's parents, as well, it was greeted with jeers from anti-abortion lawmakers. One male member of the legislature was heard complaining that it was unfair to place such a burden on the boy involved, why "he might be the captain of the football team." Representative Campbell's amendment failed by a 2-1 margin!

From RCAR (Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights) Newsletter, Spring 1990

Patricia Shedd
437 Surrey Dr.
Cortland, N.Y. 13045

ACTION

Hooray for Idaho Governor Andrus for vetoing the most restrictive anti-abortion measure ever approved in the U.S. Send him your thanks.:

Governor Cecil Andrus
The Governor's Mansion • Boise, Idaho

83706

MS. Magazine Returns Quarterly Journal with No Advertising Needs Our Support

Former subscribers received letters recently explaining the new form that MS, which has chronicled the rise of feminism in the U.S., will take. With no advertising, the editors will enjoy the kind of editorial freedom the magazine could only dream of before.

The mailing includes a letter from the publication's founder, Gloria Steinem, reviewing the struggles MS has had to deal with up till now, and sharing the possibilities for its future. In order to meet its costs with a projected circulation of 100,000, a year's subscription will be \$40.

If all goes well, the new MS will be available in June.

What did I do to get on this mailing list?

- A friend suggested your name
- You once signed a pro-choice ad
- You may have written a pro-choice letter to the editor
- We just knew that you were out there . . .

Now that you're here,
we'd like you to stay!

If you receive this newsletter and it is important for you to be part of a national grassroots pro-choice network, make sure that the contribution of others is not what's keeping you with us. There is a nominal cost of \$5 a year for postage . . . more if you can spare it. We welcome your additions to the newsletter mailing list. Thanks to those who have already made their contributions.

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

June 1990 — Vol. 1, Number 6A

Defunding Women's Rights

A broad campaign to defund progressive, non-profit organizations, particularly women's groups, has been exposed in a recent report by the National Commission for Responsible Philanthropy.

The Christian Action Council targets defunding of so-called pro-abortion and anti-Christian groups such as the NAACP, League of Women Voters, Children's Defense Funds, People for the American Way, and others. The report cites the history of right-wing groups' tactics and targets back to 1924 when they opposed child labor law (because these laws would destroy the home and the civilization based on the "The Bible").

The anti-funding campaign emanates from religious groups within the New Right: American Life League, Focus on the Family, Christian Action Council. These are coordinated through conservative groups such as the Heritage Foundation, Eagle forum, Young Americans for Freedom, Public Policy Center, John M. Olin Foundation, and Adolf Coors.

In this very newsletter, we have witnessed the demise of MS magazine, at the hands of the Moral Majority. Last month, AT&T pulled \$50,000 from its

Companies that have caved in include Union Pacific, Bristol Myers, Squibb, J.C. Penneys, Kodak and Scott. **Those who refuse to be influenced are General Mills, B.P. America, Bell of Pennsylvania, and Dayton Hudson Corp.**

funding of Planned Parenthood Federation's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program because of pro-life pressure (*some of us now use Sprint*).

LOCAL IMPLICATIONS: Even the local YWCA's Capital Fund drive felt the bite. Some folks cited National Y's pro-choice stance for not giving. Of course, some people donated to the YW just for that reason. Well over \$5,000 was collected in the name of Choice. If you have given or want to, you may designate your gift as "pro-choice" money.

For a full report of this study, send \$15 to the National Commission for Responsible Philanthropy, 2001 South St. NW, Suite 620, Washington, DC.

Important Dates

MEETING THIS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

Monthly meetings of the CFC are held the first Wednesday at the YWCA at 7:30 pm. The next few meetings will be July 11 (second Wed. due to the July 4th holiday), Aug. 1 and Sept. 5.

SEPT 22: Legislative Brunch at the Cortland Country Club. Co-sponsors: The League of Women Voters, YWCA, Business & Professional Women, AAUW, Zonta.

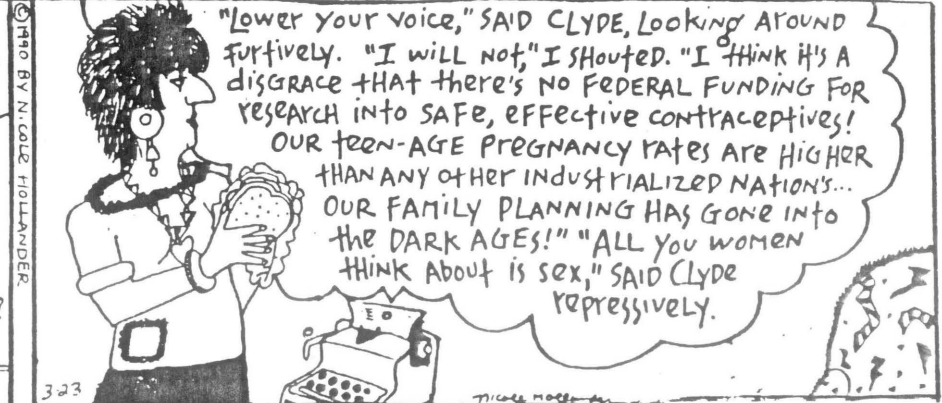
ELECTION NEWS

Livesay Challenges Seward for State Senate

Beverly Livesay, a five-term member of the Tompkins County Board of Representatives, has declared her candidacy for the State Senate seat currently occupied by incumbent Republican James Seward.

Livesay is a pro-choice Democrat. She cited budget and economic issues in announcing her intention to challenge Seward. We hope to meet her personally at the CFC Legislative Brunch in September.

The Adventures of Clyde, Kitchen Scientist



SYLVIA

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"Choice Headlines"

2-4-90 Abrupt Change on Abortion: A Survey of College Freshmen Finds Increased Support. A survey involving 216,382 freshmen on 403 campuses last year found 64.7% agreeing that abortion should be legalized. This was up from 57% in 1988. Support had stayed between 53-59% since the annual survey began asking this particular question in 1977. (*The Washington Post National Weekly Edition*)

4-3-90 Ann Arbor, Mich. Declares Itself a "Zone of Reproductive Freedom." Voters approved a token \$5 fine for anyone having or performing an abortion, should state or Federal laws ever ban the procedure (*NY Times*)

4-4-90 Planned Parenthood Seeks Reversal of AT &T Decision to Halt Gifts. Planned Parenthood is urging its supporters to "voice their opposition to [AT&T's] act of corporate cowardice" and to donate AT&T stock or proxies so Planned Parenthood can have some influence on corporate policies. AT&T's decision was prompted in part by a letter-writing campaign and boycott threat by anti-abortion groups. (*NY Times*)

4-5-90 Study Finds Little Mental Distress After Abortion. A panel of experts commissioned by the American Psychological Assoc. reported in the *Journal Science* that voluntary 1st trimester abortions don't threaten

the mental health of most women. 76% of women reported feeling relief 2 weeks after an abortion; 17% reported feelings of guilt (*NY Times* and 2/7/90 *Chronicle of Higher Education*)

4-5-90 Catholic Bishops Hire Firms to Market Abortion Attack. U.S. bishops have hired a PR firm and a politically connected polling group, which had worked for Reagan, in Washington to conduct a nationwide campaign to persuade both Catholics and non-Catholics to oppose abortion. (*NY Times*)

AN AD IN THE CORTLAND STANDARD:

WHEN THE BRAVE CITIZENS OF RUMANIA
THREW OFF THE CRUEL YOKE OF COMMUNISM,
THEIR FIRST ACT WAS TO LEGALIZE ABORTION!!

UNDER THE OPPRESSIVE ANTI-ABORTION LAWS,
RUMANIA'S INFANT MORTALITY RATE SOARED
TO 83 DEATHS PER 1000 BIRTHS. THE WESTERN
EUROPEAN AVERAGE IS LESS THAN 10 PER 1000.

UNDER THE OPPRESSIVE ANTI-ABORTION LAWS
WOMEN WERE FORCED TO BE EXAMINED
WITH POLICE PRESENT!!!

DO YOU WANT THIS TO HAPPEN IN
OUR FREE UNITED STATES??

DON'T LET THE ANTI-CHOICE EXTREMISTS TURN
OUR GLORIOUS FREE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA INTO ANOTHER RUMANIA!!

SUPPORT PRO-CHOICE!! DEFEND ROE VS WADE!!

CORTLAND COUNTY RESIDENTS
FOR A FREE AMERICA

Respond to ad number 890 —
c/o the Cortland Standard.

A Computer Survey

Many tasks of the Coalition for Choice are completed with the aid of computers. Themailing list and membership records are on an IBM compatible computer and we use Macintosh equipment for producing this newsletter.

It would be helpful to know what computers are available through our membership, to assist in our work, especially as our membership grows and we get closer to elections, candidate surveys, and campaign activities. *If you own a computer, please complete and return the form below:*

Name _____

I have a _____

_____ with the following software

Membership Renewal Special . . .

Is it time to renew your CFC membership? Have you neglected to send \$5 or \$10 to defray newsletter and mailing expenses? Do you want to add your neighbor to our mailing list? As a *special incentive*, anyone who pays for a CFC membership or renewal in June will also receive a FREE bumper sticker: saying, *I VOTE PRO- CHOICE*. Get your checkbook out now!

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

July 1990 — Vol. 1, Number 7

CFC TURNS 'EM OUT FOR CORTLAND SCHOOL BOARD MEETING!

The phone tree works and so do "action alert" letters. CFC's organizing abilities proved impressive as we were able to occupy virtually every seat and legal parking space at the Board office on May 22. Well over 100 persons were there to show their support for the school's teen pregnancy counseling guidelines.

Tom Lickona and approximately 30 others were also there to support Tom's alternative set of guidelines which would have mandated parental notification by guidance counselors in cases of teen pregnancy and require parental permission for options counseling. A 1977 Supreme Court decision guarantees minors the constitutional right to privacy in obtaining an abortion.

Superintendent Harvey Kaufman and Director of Pupil Personnel Kathy Taverone gave an excellent presentation of the guidelines, noting that reproductive health law is different than regular laws affecting minors/parents rights.

A minor may get birth control, STD treatment, prenatal care (even a C-section), as well as an abortion without parental consent/notification in this state. The guidelines were not about the issue of abortion, although the opposition used it as an opportunity to share their anecdotal horror stories. Our side stuck to the rules and presented factual information in an intellectual manner.

Parental notification laws have never been suggested by child welfare or medical/health agencies. Instead, they have always come from the proposals of Anti-choice factions whose motivation is to remove the legal option of an abortion from both the young teens and poor women. This attack is on those who are least able to defend their personal rights.

Parental notification neither decreases teen sexual activity nor increases intra family communication. It does manage to send a powerful message to young people, that their rights to privacy are trivial in comparison to their parents, and this does not teach self-responsibility or good decision making skills. You can not mandate communication, parental notification or sexual abstinence, these things begin before the teen crisis years, before children are conceived.

Ways To Get Involved

- (1) Write AT&T (see article)
- (2) Collect names and \$5 per signature from Friends of Choice who will be part of the September *Choice Ad* in the Cortland Standard.
- (3) Collect names of friends who do not receive this newsletter but would like to. Mail to Pat Shedd or Betsy

CHOICE FACTS

Mexico: 1.6 million abortions per year.
160,000 abortion related deaths/yr

The U.S.: 1.5 million abortions per year
6 abortion related deaths per year

Abortion is illegal in Mexico

DEAR ABBY: Since God alone can create life, and since God alone knows what tomorrow brings, he alone is truly qualified as a family planner.

How did a smart girl like you ever get taken in by Planned Parenthood?

A LONGTIME ADMIRER

DEAR ADMIRER: I read the figures on population explosion, and saw the pictures of thousands of starving children born of parents who did not want them and could not feed them. I then concluded that a just God could not possibly have given life to innocent children only to doom them to death by starvation in their infancy.

IT WAS IN
THE NEWS

"Choice Headlines"

2-9-90 NY Politicians Trade Charges on Abortion. Peekskill Assemblyman George Pataki, a pro-choice Republican, is named chair of state GOP platform committee. (*Cortland Standard*)

2-14-90 American Bar Assoc. Policy Group Backs Right of Women to Decide on Abortion – 1st time ABA has taken a stand on abortion. Decision could lead bar association to join pro-choice groups in future cases before Supreme Court. (*NY Times*)

4-23-90 Focus of Earth Day Should Be on Man, Cardinal Cautions. "What Is Earth Day ... if not an occasion for "political charade" designed to promote ... "non-truths" including idea that overpopulation is a cause of the world's problems. (*NY Times*)

4-24-90 GOP Group Formed to Support Abortion Rights. (*NY Times*)

4-26-90 Senate Debates Spending Bill, Delaying Abortion Clash. Panama/Nicaraguan aid delayed because Senate included language allowing DC to use its own funds to finance abortions. (*NY Times*)

4-27-90 Court in Capital Bars Forced Surgery to Save Fetus. (*NY Times*)

4-28-90 Connecticut Acts to Make Abortion Statutory Right. Legal first for a state. Measure seen as guarantee if High Court strikes down Roe v. Wade decision. (*NY Times*)

RU 486 Update

University of Southern California study matches French results of 96% effectiveness with the drug. A group of doctors are seeking permission to further test and obtain approval for RU 486 in California. A company called "Every Child A Wanted Child" says it will market the drug. They produce no other products that could be boycotted.

Reach Out & Touch AT&T

Since AT&T caved into pressure by the Christian Action Council and stopped donations to Planned Parenthood, PPFA has been urging its supporters to express their outrage by writing to Robert Allen, Chairman of the Board of AT&T, 550 Madison Ave., NY, NY 10022. Planned Parenthood's national office is cancelling a \$350,000 equipment contract with AT&T. *We think it's high time to Sprint!!*

AFL-CIO Studies Reproductive Rights

The AFL-CIO has created a committee to draft a position supporting privacy rights. Some unions have called for letters from pro-choice groups – especially, pro-choice union members – to the labor federation's president encouraging the AFL-CIO to move forward and embrace choice in matters of reproductive health. *Write to: Lane Kirkland, Pres., AFL-CIO, 815 16th St NW, Washington DC 20006.*

4-29-90 200,000 Demonstrate Against Abortion. Bush and Quayle Give Rally in Washington Promises of Support. (*NY Times*)

5-1-90 Abortion rights bill becomes state law. (*Hartford Courant*).

5-2-90 Senate Approves \$720 Million in Aid for Panama and Nicaragua. Bill also allows D.C. to use its own funds for abortions for poor women. (*NY Times*)

5-5-90 Contraceptive Chaos: Theirs, Ours. Humankind has survived famine, pestilence, innumerable battles. But, says the World Population Comm., another kind of disaster could lie ahead, unless population growth stabilizes in the 21st century. People everywhere should have access to safe, effective contraceptives—Americans too. (*NY Times*)

5-6-90 North Dakota a Hostile Landscape for Abortion. A women's health clinic in Fargo is the only place in the state providing abortions since a Jamestown doctor retired. (*NY Times*)

5-7-90 Collisions ahead for environmentalists. "Now right-to-life movement is determined to make Pres. Bush continue toeing Reagan line, and it has found a powerful, ever-more-vocal ally in Cardinal O'Connor. Chair of the Nat'l. Council of Catholic Bishops pro-life committee, O'Connor supported Earth Day but said 'I don't think the total number of people in the world is an ecological and environmental problem.' The focus, he said, should not be on 'snails and whales' but on the sacredness of the human person." The Cardinal caused stirrs recently by negotiating with a PR firm on a pro-life campaign and saying if a Catholic seriously disagrees with the church, it would be understandable if he/she left. (*U.S. News & World Report*)

5-8-90 Brooklyn Bishop Will Pray in Protests at Abortion Clinics. (*NY Times*)

5-11-90 95 Abortion Protesters Freed in Vermont. After being jailed up to 11 weeks for refusing to identify themselves after arrest, 95 protesters finally relented and were freed. (*NY Times*)

5-13-90 Knights Aiding Anti-Abortion Effort. The Knights of Columbus will provide the bulk of funds for U.S. Roman Catholic bishops' national campaign against abortion [estimated cost \$5 million]. (*NY Times*)

5-19-90 Court to Review Federal Regulations on Abortion Counseling. The Supreme Court agreed to review federal rules that bar government-financed family planning clinics from counseling on abortion. (*Cortland Standard*)

Women's Rights vs. Fetal Rights

A new factor has emerged in the abortion rights battle . . . *fetal rights*. A new set of rules have been put in place. Katha Pollitt examines this topic in her article, "*A New Assault on Feminism*." She identifies the increasing frequency with which pregnant women are harassed and penalized for not placing fetal health over their own personal health, safety and well-being.

- *More and more women and children are falling below the poverty line.*
- *Right-to-Lifers have not been able to eliminate a woman's right to abortion.*

These two facts combine to set the stage for the new attack. "Moral Majority" types cast women into the role of breeder or mere reproductive vessel. Fetuses are honored above all. And women are punished, rather than offered assistance, if they "mistreat" the fetus they are carrying.

Drug or alcohol abusing women who happen to be pregnant are seen as criminals and arrested for delivering drugs to "minors." Women who refuse C-sections are hunted down. Women who refuse purse string operations receive court orders that they must submit.

The family of a comatose woman whose condition might improve if an abortion is performed has to deal with self-appointed fetal guardian lawyers.

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) looms over every pregnant woman in America if she takes one drink. Many companies will not hire women because of environmental work hazards to her reproductive organs or to a fetus

We have lost sight of the woman. Many drug rehab centers will not admit pregnant

women. Pre-natal care is not readily available to all women. Where are the people who will champion homeless women, poor women, abused women, prostitutes, and addicts over the fetuses? Why does there have to be a choice? Where is national health insurance?

If the workplace is unsafe for female gonads, is it not so for the male's as well? How is it that drinking alcohol during pregnancy does not cause FAS in Italy or other European countries?

There is definitely a new emphasis on fetal rights these days. But what happens when these fetuses are born? What happens to women who cannot afford proper nutrition for their children?

What about the women who cannot find safe and affordable child care but must work as a matter of survival? The protectors of fetuses are not concerned about them or the problems they face. And the supposed "safety net" of social services are often more degrading and humiliating than helpful to women.

Obviously we all hope for pregnancies that are wanted, without complications, resulting in the birth of healthy babies who will be loved and cared for. This can only be assured in a society where *all women* have full economic opportunity, equality and choices.

IMPORTANT DATES

JULY 1 - 20th anniversary of New York State's legalization of abortion, three years before the Roe v. Wade decision.

JULY 11 - Monthly Pro-Choice meeting. We need you now more than ever. 7:30pm YWCA

SEPT 16 - Central New York Pro-Choice rally. Downtown Syracuse. Watch for additional details next month.

SEPT 22 - Legislative Brunch at the Cortland Country Club. Co-sponsors include the YWCA, Zonta, Business & Professional Women, the League of Women Voters, and AAUW. Beverly Livesay of Ithaca, challenger to Jim Seward for State Senate has put us on her calendar.

July 3, 1990

Dear Readers,

The BAD

The July 3, 1989 Webster Decision by the Supreme Court threw abortion rights back to the states. The legislatures in Florida, Pennsylvania, Idaho and Louisiana immediately attempted to outlaw most abortions. Similar bills are pending in all state legislatures. Last week the Supreme Court again handed us a set back with the parental notification rulings in Ohio and Minnesota.

The GOOD

There was a voter backlash at the polls in Nov. and pro-choice became a winning issue. The Republican Party rethought its position. Perhaps they can accommodate all views.

The WONDERFUL

Our Coalition joined 25 others statewide as we went into action after the Webster Decision. Our actions have kept NYS a prochoice state with the governor and assembly strongly so and the Senate one short of a prochoice majority.

Our very active volunteers, Ruth, Tracey, Pat and Betsy have turned out 8 monthly newsletters. Janet and Henry organized a phone tree that alerted people about the School Board Teen Pregnancy Counseling guideline struggle. Sixty people ^{were} called and 100+ came to the board meeting! Tracey organized a bus to Washington in April and another in November. Almost 1 million marched for choice in Washington in 1989!!!

SO ---

We need your support. Only 55 readers are shouldering the mailing costs for 250 prochoice families. Please put your name on both sides of the enclosed ad. One check for both will do. We can't do it without you!!

Sincerely,

Andrea Marciano

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

August 1990 — Vol. 1, Number 8

Just Call "Jane"

"Jane" was an acronym for an underground abortion service facilitated by a group of progressive and dedicated women who felt strongly that all women needed access to safe, inexpensive abortions. It began in 1969 and continued until 1973 when abortion became legal nationwide.

The group of women initially worked with a man who passed himself off as a doctor and charged high fees. Women knew from other women to call "Jane" which was a referral counseling service.

A woman would call the phone number and someone would call back. She would be given instructions on where to go, who would pick her up and what to wear to identify herself to the driver. Often there would be four women wearing red scarves waiting on the same corner for a ride to this remote abortionist.

When it was discovered that the abortionist was not a doctor, members of the group decided that they would learn how to do abortion procedures. They then controlled the cost and were able to make abortion available especially to poor women.

This group of women, many of whom had received abortions through "Jane", provided abortion counseling and comforting to women in need. During their three years they performed over 11,000 abortions!!

What will happen in New York State if Roe vs. Wade is overturned? New York will probably remain pro choice but other states probably will not. Will New York again become an abortion Mecca as it was in 1970-1972? What desperate things will women do for abortion?

CHOICE FACTS

- NY State has a pro-choice governor, a pro-choice assembly, and we are one seat away from a pro-choice senate. There are two empty anti-choice seats and we have a good chance at them.

- The NY State Republican party nominated an entirely pro-choice ticket for statewide elections.

- The Right to Life gubernatorial candidate failed to get the minimum number of petition signatures so he won't run.

Election Litmus Test is Pro-Choice Stance

In November we elect 36 governors and thousands of state legislators, judges, and local officials who will hold the future of legal abortion in their hands.

We have had one whole year of very negative Supreme Court decisions starting with Webster and ending with the Minnesota and Ohio parental consent rulings.

Half of all federal judges and one third of the Supreme Court are Reagan appointees. One Bush appointment and Roe vs. Wade is out the door and 50 State Right To Life organizations will be raising hell in 50 State legislatures. Louisiana and Idaho were the forerunners. **We can't count on the courts. We need to vote the rascals out.**

Locally, both candidates for NY State Senate, incumbent Jim Seward (R) and Bev Livesay (D), are pro choice. The Governor (D) is pro as are the Comptroller candidates. However, we cannot be complacent. We need to continue to support pro-choice candidates for all offices and to continue reminding decision makers that this is a crucial issue.

IMPORTANT DATES

AUG 1 Pro-Choice Coalition meeting, YMCA, 7:30 p.m., First Wednesday of every month (Future meetings: Sept 5, October 3)

AUG 9 Beverly Livesay, Democratic State Senate Candidate, campaigns with Geraldine Ferraro in Cortland. **12 noon** at Nutrition Site, 60 Central Ave. (County Office Bldg), and **1:15 p.m.** at 42 Church Street, Activity Room.

SEPT 22 Legislative Brunch, 11:00 a.m., Cortland Country Club. Call Alice Walker for tickets.

NOV 6 Election Day. Moved? You need to re-register..

I'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER

<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Recruitment	<input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising
<input type="checkbox"/> Speakers Bureau	<input type="checkbox"/> Letter Writing
<input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Tree	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Events
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter: Editing, Typing, Writing, Mailing	

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

"Choice Headlines"

5-31-90 **GOP Convention Names Two to Complete NY Ticket.** The struggle on abortion overshadows candidate selection. By nominating (Yancy for lieutenant governor and Smith for Atty General) to join Mr. Rinfret and Comptroller Edward Regan, the Republicans for the first time selected a ticket in which all four statewide candidates support abortion rights. *New York Times*

5-31-90 **A Sensible Statement.** The abortion plank also states in part, "State govt must not become 'Big Brother,' regulating people in their personal affairs and lives. The NY Republican Party reaffirms its historic commitment to the right of privacy and reproductive rights." (Excerpt from editorial.) *Cortland Standard*

6-1-90 **Florio Leaves Knights of Columbus.** NJ Gov Jim Florio said that he resigned from the Roman Catholic social organization after the Bishop of Camden announced that politicians favoring a woman's right to abortion will not be allowed to speak at church gatherings. *NY Times*

6-11-90 **With Thin Staff and Thick Debt, Anti-Abortion Group Faces Struggle.** These are not the best of times for Randall Terry and Operation Rescue... On two consecutive Mondays in May, the Supreme Court let stand rulings in NY and Atlanta that forbid Operation Rescue demonstrators access to Abortion clinics. There are still \$450,000 in unpaid fines.. more than a dozen pending lawsuits...not to mention that after Federal marshalls seized the group's payroll account, the Operation Rescue headquarters staff shrunk to 3 people from 23. *New York Times*

6-14-90 **O'Connor Warns Politicians Risk Excommunication Over Abortion.** Those at risk, he said, are Catholics "perceived not only as treating church teaching on abortion with contempt, but helping to multiply abortions by advocating legislation supporting abortion or by making public funds available for abortion. If such action persists," he said, "bishops may consider excommunication the only option." *New York Times*

6-23-90 **Catholic Politicians Confront Public & Private Conscience.** In interviews with a sampling of Catholic politicians who support abortion rights, even though many personally oppose abortion, most comments were tinged with regret. "There's no desire to fight with the cardinals or archbishops," said Rep. Pelosi, a Democrat from San Francisco. "But it has to be clear that we are elected officials. We uphold the law and we support public positions separate and apart from our Catholic faith." Sen. Leahy,

a Democrat, said "For the church to teach that abortion is not acceptable for a Catholic is fine." But he adds, "To say directly or indirectly that on ... a church teaching that you must also vote according to that—that's unacceptable in a country based on the First Amendment." *New York Times*

6-26-90 **States May Require Girl To Notify Parents Before Having Abortion.** The Supreme Court ruled that states may require a teenage girl to notify *both parents* before obtaining an abortion, as long as the law provides the alternative of a judicial hearing for pregnant girls who do not want to inform parents of their decision. *New York Times*

"I listen to the feminists and all these radical gals—most of them are failures. They've blown it. Some of them have been married, but they married some Casper Milquetoast who asked permission to go to the bathroom. These women just need a man to tell them what time of day it is and to lead them home. And they blew it and they're mad at all men. Feminists hate men. They're sexist. They hate men—that's their problem." **Rev. Jerry Falwell**

"Women have babies and men provide the support. If you don't like the way we're made you've got to take it up with God." **Phyllis Schlafly, Eagle Forum**

"The argument that making contraceptives available to young people would prevent teen pregnancies is ridiculous. That's like offering a cookbook as a cure to people trying to lose weight." **Rev. Jerry Falwell**

"Sex education classes in our public schools are promoting incest." **Rev. Jimmy Swaggart**

6-30-90 **Director of Abortion Clinic Excommunicated in Texas.** In a letter to Rachel Vargas, Bishop Rene Gracida of Corpus Christi wrote, "Your cooperation in procuring abortion is a sin against God and Humanity and against the law of the Roman Catholic Church." Formal excommunication, in which a Catholic is cut off from the church is very rare, reserved for only the most extreme crimes against the church. Even convicted murderers rarely receive formal ex-communication. *New York Times*

7-21-90 **Brennan, Key Liberal, Quits Supreme Court; Battle for Seat Likely.** The battle over his successor may well be the abortion issue, since Brennan is a strong supporter of the Court's abortion rights precedents, for which the margin among the justices is now razor thin. *New York Times*

Six Ways To Get Involved

1. **WATCH** for the Women's Coalition Voter's Guide in the September Newsletter.
2. **COLLECT** signatures/money for our Sept. pro-choice ad. Get forms from Kathy Russell or Colleen Kattau.
3. **ATTEND** our Legislative Brunch Sept. 22, 11a.m. at Cortland Country Club. Tickets available at YWCA.
4. **TALK** to your friends about the implications of the Louisiana bill.
5. **WATCH** cable Channel 2 for our videos *Abortion For Survival* and *Committed To Choice*. Both are excellent.
6. **WRITE** Moynihan to sponsor Freedom of Choice Acts. He is absolutely being inundated with mail opposing the codification of these laws.

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

September 1990 — Vol. 1, Number 8 A

Feds Censor Abortion Data

This article is reprinted from the newsletter of the Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion

Evidence that legal abortion poses no significant risks to women's physical or mental health has been systematically censored by the federal government, according to a recent report from the House Government Operations Committee, which held hearings on this issue.

The report states, "Abortion is one of the most common medical procedures in the United States today, and yet the Dept. of Health and Human Services severely restricts all scientific research which could lead to improved safety or which would compare the physical and mental health effects of abortion with the effects of other available alternatives."

Central to the committee's report was the controversy involving former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop. The Reagan administration had called upon Koop to compile data to buttress anti-choice claims that legal abortion is injurious to women. When Koop could not substantiate those claims, however, his findings were squelched by the administration.

Koop reportedly told Reagan: "the scientific studies do not provide conclusive data about the health effects of abortion on women."

Early drafts of Koop's never-released findings said: "The worst result would be that some would be forced to resort

Hearings conducted by a House sub-committee revealed that since the early 1980's, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) researchers have not been permitted to publish any information that implies any public health benefits associated with legal abortion.

to unsafe, illegal abortion. Maternal morbidity and mortality would become a serious problem. To make abortions illegal would only continue the national struggle."

Dr. David Grimes, former chief of the Abortion Surveillance branch at CDC, testified that since the legalization of abortion following *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, "the risk of death from abortion has decreased more than fivefold to less than one death per 100,000 procedures, less than the risk of death from an injection of penicillin," but federal scientists were actually punished with demotion for producing research results such as this which were in conflict with Reagan/Bush policy.

Anti-Abortion Politics Affects Reports

The CDC continues to be restricted by political considerations: more than five years ago CDC stopped

comparing the relative safety of abortions and childbirth.

This is an important omission because comparisons have indicated that women are between seven and 25 times more likely to die from childbirth than from legal abortion.

Koop admitted, in a recent *Los Angeles Times* interview, that the safety of abortion had never been the issue, but rather "the morality of whether or not you are destroying a person," and said that the anti-choice movement's attempt to prove abortion psychologically harmful is "a subterfuge" and "a kind of admission of defeat by the pro-life people."

The House committee's report goes on to cite Koop's testimony that poor women do not have the same access to accurate information on reproductive choices as more well-to-do women, and that this lack of access is "deplorable."

Congressional Recommendations

The report recommends that the federal government play a "serious role in fostering more effective contraceptive use," and that it recommit itself to contraceptive development research to decrease the demand for abortion.

The committee concluded that programs can best be evaluated and the health of all Americans improved by "eliminating censorship and minimizing bias in biomedical research."

IMPORTANT DATES

SEPT 5 Pro-Choice Coalition meeting, YMCA, 7:30 p.m., First Wednesday of every month. (Future meetings, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5). *Join this lively bunch and help with the many tasks of an election year! Students are welcome and encouraged to attend.*

SEPT 16 *Rally 1990: Our Vote-Our Choice.* Sunday in Clinton Square, Downtown Syracuse, noon to 2:00 pm. Rain or shine. Bring banners, posters, etc. CFC will raise money there by selling bumper stickers: "I Vote For Choice" or "I Have A Uterus And I Vote." For rides, call Andrea at 753-8510.

SEPT 25 Legislative Brunch, 11:00 a.m. All state and national electoral candidates were invited. Tickets are \$10 and available at the YWCA or from other co-sponsoring women's coalitions (AAUW, BPW, Zonta, League of Women Voters).

NOV 6 Election Day. Moved? Just turned 18? You need to re-register. now.

Church politicking WHO CAN SUE?

The Supreme Court has quashed a lawsuit brought by Abortion Rights Mobilization (ARM) to revoke the tax exemption of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Court did not rule on the merits of ARM's case, but said ARM did not have standing to sue. It is now questionable who, if anyone at all, has standing.

ARM's suit, which was against the IRS, cited extensive political support of anti-abortion candidates as a violation of the Church's favored tax status. ARM claimed that if the Church wants to engage in electoral politics — ARM does not question the Church's right to lobby — it should not be subsidized by taxpayers through a tax exemption.

The ARM law suit has dragged on for a decade.

ARM president Lawrence Lader told WCLA that the issue is not over. He is asking the House of Representatives Government Operations Committee to see why the IRS can break the law without any supervision from the government. He explained that two Protestant groups lost their tax exemption for similar reasons.

I PLEDGE NOT TO VOTE FOR, NOR SUPPORT WITH MY MONEY OR TIME,
ANY CANDIDATE — FOR ANY OFFICE — WHO DOES NOT FULLY
SUPPORT AND WORK FOR WOMEN'S EQUALITY
AND THE RIGHT TO SAFE, LEGAL AND ACCESSIBLE ABORTION.

Save addresses for future reference: Let them know your thoughts. Short, hand written letters are best.

President George Bush (R,C)
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500
Opinion Phone: 202/456-7639

United States Senate:
Hon. Alphonse D'Amato
(R, C, RTL) 202/947-7393

Hon. Daniel P. Moynihan
(D, C) 202/661-5150

Address to:
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

House of Representatives

Hon. Sherwood Boehlert
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

NY State Governor:

Hon. Mario Cuomo
Executive Chambers Telephone
Albany, NY 12224 518/474-2121

New York State Senate:

Hon. James Seward
New York State Senate
Albany, NY 12247

NY State Assembly:

Hon. Clarence Rappleyea
Minority Leader
New York State Assembly
Albany, NY 12248

Rochester Memorial Day Parade: Several members of the Finger Lakes Coalition for Choice marched with the Peace and Justice Contingency. They carried banners and pulled the monument shown at right. They report that "the applause and cheers we received were exhilarating and the clapping only intensified when some spectators jeered."



CHOICE FACTS

- The National Right to Life's model bill put forth in Idaho was written in such a way that a rapist could veto his victim's decision to abort.
- Recent studies have shown that publically financed family planning services are used by 4.5 million American women and prevent 1.2 million unintended pregnancies every year. For every public \$1 spent for birth control, \$4.40 is saved in preventing and dealing with unwanted outcomes, welfare dependency, etc.



Choice

October 1990 --- Vol. 1, Number 9

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

Legislative Brunch Huge Success

This meet-the-candidates forum at the Country Club on Sept. 22 drew 100 persons to hear: William Griffen (25th Cong.); Bev Livesay and James Seward (50th Senatorial District); Suzanne Rinfret Moore speaking for her father, Pierre and Amy Gillenson for Governor Cuomo. All candidates were Pro Choice. We'll do it again in 2 years.

APH and AMA resolution calls for U.S. research & possible use of RU 486 - the abortion pill

In June, the AMA called for further research of RU 486. The European manufacturer, Roussel-Uclaf in Paris must give permission to release the drug outside of France. A strong American Right-to-Life opposition has bombarded the drug company with protests. Since there has been no counter balance to this point of view, the company thinks that American opinion is anti RU 486.

It will probably be 2-5 years before the drug is available in this country. Getting FDA approval for the drug's other uses in breast cancer, glaucoma, infertility, endometriosis, etc. might expedite its approval later as an abortifacient.

The resolution says in part:

"Whereas existing AMA policy holds that the early termination of pregnancy is a private medical matter . . . between a patient & her physician . . .

"Whereas it is in keeping with good medical standards to avoid surgical procedures whenever an equally effective non-invasive alternative is available . . . "

"Whereas the potential for a black market in RU 486 in this country is very real . . . "

RU 486 is different than the Morning After pill in that the latter must be taken within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse but RU 486 can be used up to 7 weeks from conception.

An American Public Health Association delegation, spearheaded by the Feminist Majority, recently met with the maker of RU 486 and now expresses confidence that the drug will be available in the U.S. without extraordinary delay. They presented 115,000 petition signatures from U.S. people asking that the drug be made available here.

Roe v. Wade may go down the tubes with Souter Confirmation

We should be alarmed! We probably will not be able to depend on the Supreme Court to uphold Reproductive rights. Increasingly we will have to depend on our elected officials and legislatures to protect our reproductive choices.

Molly Yard, Liz Holtzman and Ellie Smeal offered testimony against Souter during confirmation hearings but they were like voices crying in the wilderness. They pointed out that Souter has a bad record on the 3 R's for women . . . Rape, Rights, Reproduction. In one case, Souter did not allow the "rape shield" which says that a woman's previous sexual activities should not be used as evidence. She once said "yes" to sex so she can never say "no" to a rapist.

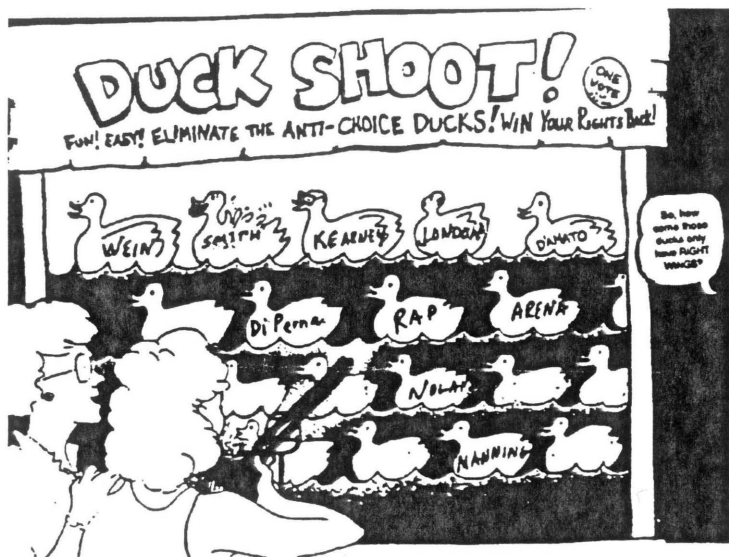
There is serious concern that Souter will be the fifth vote needed to overturn Roe v. Wade. This would send the right-to-abortion back to the states. It is critical that we elect only pro choice candidates for all offices, local, state & national. Pat Schroder is attempting to have Roe v. Wade codified in federal law. Moynihan & DiAmato have not signed on to cosponsor HR 3700 and S 1912 The Freedom of Choice Act. **WRITE TODAY.**

Republican Party Sees the Light

Here are some recent pro choice victories

1. State GOP Chairman, J. Patrick Barrett declared on 11/15/89 that he opposed a ban on medicaid funded abortions for poor women. (NY is only one of 13 States that has Medicaid funded abortions).
2. Nat'l GOP Chair Lee Atwater declared that the GOP should consider itself an "umbrella Party" open to all views on abortion.
3. On 5/29/90 the State GOP approved a platform plank that supported women's reproductive rights.

4. Senator Nick Spano (R) and Assemblymen Bianchi & Zimmer switched their anti choice votes this year.
5. Parental consent for abortion was voted down in the Assemble Health Committee and was never brought up in the Senate.
6. All Statewide Republican candidates are PRO CHOICE!!!



RESULTS OF THE 1990 CANDIDATES QUESTIONNAIRE

Compiled by the Cortland Women's Coalition
(AAUW, BPW, Zonta, YWCA & League of Women Voters)

Governor's Office	Louis Wein (RTL) -	Anti Choice
	Herb London (C) -	Anti Choice
	Pierre Rinfret (R) -	no response*
	Mario Cuomo (D) -	no response*
Lt. Governor	Stan Lundine (D) -	no response*
	Geff Yancey (R) -	no response*
	Anthony P. Di Perna (C)	Anti Choice
Attorney General	Robert Abrams (D) -	PRO CHOICE
	Bernard Smith (R) -	no response*
Comptroller	Donna Marie Kearney (RTL)	Anti Choice
	Carol Bellamy (D) -	no response*
	Ed Regan (R) -	PRO CHOICE
State Senate(50th)	Beverly Livesay (D) -	PRO CHOICE
	James Seward (R) -	PRO CHOICE
State Assembly	Clarence Pappleyea (R) -	Anti Choice
Congress 25th	William Griffen (L) -	PRO CHOICE
	Sherwood Boehlert -	no response*

* Record shows candidate to be PRO CHOICE

ELECTION INSIGHTS

1. If Rinfret pulled out of the race for governor, the conservative party candidate, Herbert London would probably have received the second greatest number of votes on the ballot thereby determining the future positions of the parties on the ballot for the next four years . . . Democrats 1st, Conservatives 2nd and Republicans 3rd.

2. The Right to Life Party P.A.C. just endorsed Herb London over their chosen candidate, Louis Wein. They wanted to send a message to the Republican Party who sought a pro choice candidate in Rinfret.

3. The State Senate is one seat away from being PRO CHOICE. The Assembly and the Governor's office is and probably will remain PRO CHOICE after the election.

Gaging Family Planning Agencies

The Title X Gag Rule is currently before this Supreme Court. The local Women's Health Center of the Cortland County Health Department is partially funded with these federal Title X Family Planning funds. The Title X regulations put forth by the Reagan Administration in 1988 have been held up on the Courts ever since. These regs. would restrict health care providers from even mentioning the word "abortion" to their patients when providing them with all the options to an unplanned pregnancy. This is obviously not providing the patient with truly informed consent.

If this rule is upheld, the State will refuse to accept federal Title X dollars for its family planning programs. Unfortunately, it is poor women who rely most on this federal subsidy to family planning clinics and as usual will be most hurt by the loss of funding.

ELECTION DEADLINES

Oct 9	All mail-in registrations must be postmarked by this date
Oct 13	Last day for in-person registration 2:00 - 9:00pm Election Office, 60 Central Ave.
Nov 5	Deadline for election office receiving absentee ballots. Ballots can be obtained from Election Office.
Nov 6	Election Day 6am - 9pm

Don't even
THINK
of not
voting

ACTION LINE

THE RIGHT TO LEGAL ABORTION DEPENDS ON WHO'S IN OFFICE AND WHO'S IN OFFICE DEPENDS ON US.

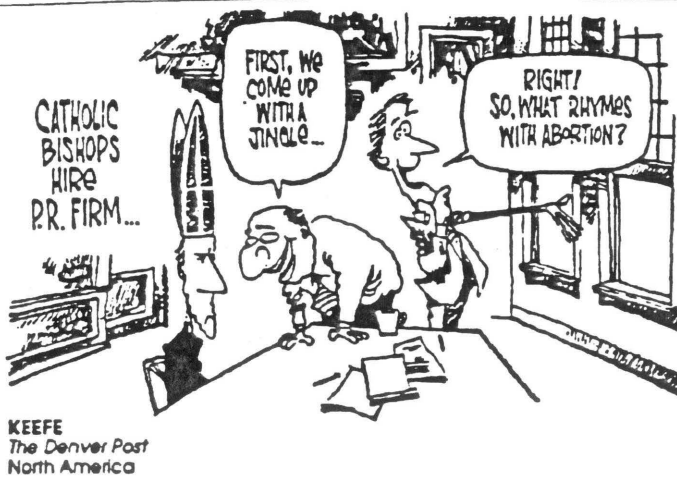
1. Get people registered
2. Vote
3. Encourage others to vote
4. Watch our two videos in October on Cable

Assess Channel 2 (see schedule)

??Question??

Would a major ad company (like Hill and Knollton) be involved with a national media campaign to take away women's rights?

You bet! The Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Church are paying this company \$5 million to develop slick anti-abortion campaigns. Do you suppose that the \$5 million could have been better spent?



VIDEO DATES - CHANNEL 2

- | | | |
|--------|---------|--|
| Oct 1 | 9:30pm | "ABORTION FOR SURVIVAL" |
| Oct 2 | 9:30pm | A quality video given to every |
| Oct 11 | 8:30pm | State Legislator in January. It exposes Right to Life hypocrisy. |
| | | |
| Oct 8 | Noon | "COMMITTED TO CHOICE" |
| Oct 9 | 9:00pm | Women of various faiths |
| Oct 16 | 9:00pm | discuss their perspectives on |
| Oct 19 | 10:30am | abortion. |

OTHER DATES

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Oct 3 | Pro Choice Meeting 7:30 YWCA |
| Oct 6 | Right-to-Life March on the Hospital Protesting Abortion Policy. |
| Oct 10 | Women's Noon Luncheon Series - Women's Issues for the 90's Election YWCA |
| Oct 24 | "An Introduction to Cults, Mind Control and Ritualistic/Satanic Activity" Office Building Auditorium 7:30 pm |
| Oct 25 | "Within Their Reach: Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage" A forum showcasing programs that work for children. TC-3 - Registration ASAP through the County Health Dept. 753-5026 |
| Oct 31 | 10 A.M. Meet the Candidates: Election Forum, County Office Building Auditorium - sponsored by the Office for the Aging |
| Nov 6 | Election Day |
| Nov 7 | Pro Choice Meeting 7:30 YWCA - Analysis of the Election |

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Justice Marshall dissenting in *Beal, Maher & Poelker*:

"It is all too obvious that the governmental actions in these cases, ostensibly taken to 'encourage' women to carry pregnancies to term, are in reality intended to impose a moral viewpoint that no State may constitutionally enforce. Since efforts to overturn [*Roe v. Wade*] have been unsuccessful, the opponents of abortion have attempted every imaginable means to circumvent the commands of the Constitution and impose their moral choices upon the rest of society . . ."

Justice Powell writing for the majority in *Akron*: "Central among these [constitutionally] protected liberties is an individual's 'freedom of personal choice in matters of marriage and family life.' The decision in *Roe* was based firmly on this long-recognized and essential element of personal liberty. The Court also recognized, because abortion is a medical procedure, that the full vindication of the woman's fundamental right necessarily requires that her physician be given 'the room he needs to make his best medical judgment.'"

Justice O'Connor dissenting in *Akron*:

"The trimester or 'three stage' approach adopted by the Court in *Roe*. . . cannot be supported as a legitimate or useful framework for accommodating the woman's right and the state's interests. . ."

The *Roe* framework . . . is clearly on a collision course with itself . . . [It is] an unworkable means of balancing the fundamental right and the compelling state interests that are indisputably implicated."

Justice Rehnquist dissenting in *Roe*:

"The drafters [of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution] did not intend to have the Fourteenth Amendment withdraw from the States the power to legislate with respect [to abortion]."

Choice

November 1990 -- Vol. 1, Number 10

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

WATCH THESE ELECTIONS! Choice is the Issue

NY State Senate
NY State Assembly

Florida Governor
Michigan Governor
Texas Governor
Pennsylvania Gov.
Ohio Governor
Indiana Governor
Virginia Governor
Iowa Governor

Anti
kenneth lavalle **
pater sullivan
gary proud
bob martinez **
john engler
clayton williams
robert casey **
dennis voinovich
richard hawks
stan parris
tom tauke

Pro
SHERRY HENRY *
BEN GERSHMAN
SUSAN JOHN
L. CHILDS
JAMES BLANCHARD **
ANN RICHARDS
BARBARA HAVER
ANTHONY CELEBREEZE
JILL LONG
JAMES MORAN
ERIC TABOR

* NY Senate is one seat away from being PRO-CHOICE. This could be the decisive race.

** Incumbent

A Great Big THANK YOU To:

*Ruth Grunburg for the typing and layout of this newsletter for the past year — 10 editions! You did a terrific job with the headings, jokes and arrangements. It always looked great!

*Eileen Milay for learning to use the Mac. and typing the past 2 editions on it.

*Dan Mullens of Cortland Copy Plus in the Marketplace Mall for allowing us to use your Mac desk top.

Quote of the month:

*"Inbreeding is how we get
championship horses."*

(Louisiana State Representative Carl Gunter, opposing the exception for incest in a state anti-abortion bill.

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE — A YEAR'S PERSPECTIVE 1989-90

We've accomplished:

1. The identification of 320 Pro-choice families in Cortland.
2. Monthly news letters for the year keeping folks informed about current events and their implications.
3. Participation in two major marches to Washington; one to Albany.
4. The creation of a phone tree.
5. The activation of the phone tree to turn out 100 folks for a school board meeting

dealing with counseling options for teen pregnancy thus supporting the school administration's position.

6. The formation of a Clergy for Choice group.
7. A community wide signature campaign for the up-coming Pro-choice ad.
8. A pledge-a-picket campaign. For each right-to-lifer picketing the hospital and physician's office on 6 Euclid Ave. last Jan. 22, PRO-CHOICERS pledged an amount of money. The greater the opposition's forces the more money we raised.
9. Two support letters to the hospital from a total of 18 clergy/religious leaders in support of the hospital's CHOICE policy.
10. A highly successful legislative (meet the candidates) brunch co-sponsored by 5 women's organizations but motivated by CCFC. Next time CCFC will be an official co-sponsor.
11. Poll of all candidates for state & federal elective offices regarding their stances on abortion. (see Oct '90 newsletter for results.)
12. Full page Ad in Cortland Standard nearly complete thanks to Kelly, Kathy, Julia, Colleen & Gabrielle. Galvanized by the Supreme Court Webster decision, (CFC has accomplished a great deal in less than a year and a half. If we can accomplish so much with 320 people on our mailing list, think of what we could do with more. Tell your friends about us. We face the Roe v. Wade challenge in the coming year.

CCFC Organizes Clergy For Choice

A mailing was sent to area clergy requesting their name on a pro-choice statement created by the Rev. Sharon Ditman of Ithaca. Rev. Ditman has given CCFC permission to use her statement in a brochure that will be produced locally. We are thrilled to have 9 clergy/religious leaders respond within the first week of our request and lend their names to our effort. They are to be congratulated for this courageous stand. Please urge your religious leaders to join us. Write to CCFC/P.O. Box 385/Cortland for more information or call 753-8510.

NEW—LETTERS TO THE EDITOR—NEW

The Choice Newsletter invites our readers to send responses, comments, questions, articles and resources to the editor to be published in our new "Letters to the Editor" section. CCFC Editor, P.O. Box 385, Cortland, N.Y. 13040

AS THE WALL COMES DOWN, SO DO WOMEN'S RIGHTS

East German Women have enjoyed many rights that women in the U.S. or West Germany do not have. They are encouraged into the work force and are guaranteed the same salary as their male counterparts. If women chose to have children, they enjoy a year's paid maternity leave and free child care when they return to work. These two issues are vital for women who want to work outside the home. In this country we are still fighting for the acknowledgement of the need for free child care, paid maternity leave and support for women who want to be parents and workers at the same time.

Other rights guaranteed to East German women include access to free birth control. This includes access to the pill for all women, including minors—confidentiality is protected and parents of minors are not contacted. Women

also have the right to free abortion during the first trimester of pregnancy and one with outside medical approval thereafter. In West Germany, a woman must get two physicians to approve an abortion and must see a registered counselor.

Sex education and frank articles in state-sponsored magazines for teenagers ensure that young women are aware of birth control options. Their schools, unlike ours, provide quality sex education and birth control education.

The Berlin wall has come down; German people are feeling united but there are winds of repression with regard to women's rights and concerns. The first things slated to change are East German's paid maternity leave and free child care. Next is free contraceptives. Women will see a decrease in pay equity. Also, East German women got a day of paid leave every month for housework and up to four weeks per year for a child's sickness. This contrasted vastly with West German women's 5 days per year and will probably be lost. Our hearts and support go out to East German Women as they lose ground.

The political merger between East and West has taken place. The two sides, however, have not come to terms about the right to abortion. As a temporary solution, the separate East German and West German Laws, in this sole



instance, will prevail for women for the next two years until an acceptable compromise can be reached under the "New" unified Germany.

As abortion rights advocates, it would be important to monitor the outcome of this compromise. More importantly it is imperative to mention abortion rights here in this country because conditions now exist that could reverse Roe v. Wade. We only kid ourselves if we think this cannot happen, after all, few thought that the East and West could unite to become one Germany again.

RAPE, INCEST AND HYPOCRISY

In the March newsletter published by the anti-abortion group STOPP (Stop Planned Parenthood), one author wrote of his frustration with the growing number of anti-choice lawmakers who are beginning to "compromise" on the abortion issue by allowing abortion for cases of rape and incest. The author condemns the rape/incest exceptions because: "We cannot compromise on this, or we lose the entire argument. As soon as you admit that there is even one single baby that may be killed for ANY reason, you have lost the battle."

Although we take issue with the author's inflammatory language, we agree with his observations. When George Bush, Buddy Roemer, lawmakers and even the conflicted public-at-large embrace the abortion option for rape and incest victims, but reject it for all others, they have indeed lost the battle. They have negated their own premise of "fetal rights" beginning at conception. They have redefined the issue by creating an extraordinary dividing line: women who indulge willingly in sexual activity cannot have abortions; women who have sex unwillingly can have abortions.

When "fetal rights" depend on whether a woman enjoyed sexual relations, the issue clearly is not about babies or human life or even abortion. Rather, it is about the public discomfiture and ambivalence toward female sexuality and the female role in society. The rape/incest exclusion is, as the enemy himself has recognized, a ruinous crack in the "abortion-is-murder" facade.

We've been afraid to ask the question: So if a fetus isn't a "person" when a woman has been raped, why is it a "person" just because she hasn't been raped? We've been afraid to exploit the blatant inconsistency, because we've feared that sudden consistency might mean banning choice for all women instead of allowing choice for all women. That is, more than ever, a groundless fear. An absolute ban on abortion is an extremist position that is repugnant to most Americans, even those who are uneasy about abortion. Let our enemies run on such a position. Let them try to defend it. We can fight and win that kind of battle. But we will struggle very hard indeed against those who paint themselves as "moderate compromisers" and who play a conflicted public that fails or refuses to see their real agenda.

Because we can never settle for a scenario that allows choice only for rape and incest victims, we must never plea bargain for those exceptions, and we must stop ignoring the hypocrisy those exceptions represent. (taken from Pro-Choice IDEA, vol 1, no. 1, WCLA)

1990—1991 PROPOSED GOALS

1. 500 PRO-CHOICE families on our mailing list!
2. Pledge-A-Picket as major fundraiser—Jan. 22, 1991 is the date of anti-abortion demonstration at hospital for Roe v. Wade 18th anniversary. We need an organizer for this counter event.
3. Formation of Physicians for Choice Group. We need an organizer.
4. Adopt-A-Legislature Program. Volunteers needed to keep our state and federal representatives posted on our pro-choice concerns.
5. Full analysis of 1990 election from a pro-choice perspective. Bob, Andrea & Tracey will do this; others welcomed to join. (Will be reported in Dec '90 newsletter.)
6. PRO-CHOICE I.D. PROJECT
7. Letter to editor/media watch committee to be formed.

CALENDAR

Nov 6	Election Day VOTE!!!
Nov 7	Pro-Choice Meeting 7:30 pm at YWCA Goal Setting Meeting — IMPORTANT!!!
Nov 14	Robert Spitzer's Election Analysis at Sandwich Seminar - Noon at YWCA
Nov 15	Harris Poll/Eagleton Institute/Family Planning Advocates - A one day Analysis of the Election Results
Dec 5	Pro-Choice Meeting 6:30 pm at YWCA PIZZA HOLIDAY PARTY! Bring a dish and table service. NOTE TIME CHANGE!

Choice

December 1990 — Vol. 1, Number 11

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

4th Ward Pro-Choice Election Victory

There is one woman on the Common Council. She ran unopposed in a recent special election required by law. Andrea Marciano was appointed in August to fill a vacant seat; she then garnered 224 votes on Nov 6 to be the "official" alderwoman.

1. Her appointment to the council by the mayor, and then her election give the right message.
2. Marciano is the director of the Women's Health Center and is known for her advocacy for women on Pro-choice and her activities with this Coalition.
3. Apparently the Republican party called every Republican in the 4th ward to oppose Marciano at the polls but no one came forward.
The Pro-choice issue has to be considered at every level of government.

NEWSLETTER WORKCREW REGROUPS

We have a new editor, Tracey Messinger and a new system of sharing responsibility for folding, labeling, sealing, sorting and mailing the newsletter. There are 12 volunteers who have assumed responsibility for sending out a post card reminding the pro-choice activists of the monthly meetings. Now those same persons will gather their friends together at the end of the month and get the newsletter out. In this way, more people will become active and the same old folks will go on to other activities.

Who will be Al (Anti-Choice) D' Amato's campaign organizer for 1992?

See next issue for the answer.

? CHANGES ?

Call this number if you no longer want to be on this mailing list. 753-8510. Leave a message with your name & address. Also, if we have misspelled your name, have the wrong address or if you've moved, LET US KNOW PLEASE.

RESTRICTIVE ABORTION LAWS & TEENAGE WOMEN

Congress is dickering with Title X family planning funding again. What is the logic of making pregnancy prevention monies difficult to obtain if you oppose abortion?

Reagan-Bush and the Senate have attempted to gag family

planning agencies by imposing strings to this federal funding. Agencies could not mention the "A" word to patients during pregnancy counseling options or even if a patient asks for abortion information if these conservative forces have their way. Currently these regulations are tied up in court.

So the new federal thinking is if we can't impose the "gag" rule, how about the "squel" rule. Translates: teens coming to clinics will have their parents notified if they happen to be pregnant and choose the abortion option.

We've dealt with Parental Consent issues before at the Cortland School Board. Then the Supreme Court handed down 2 severely restrictive rulings last June which upheld Minnesota & Ohio's laws and basically expanded the power of the state legislature to limit reproductive health care to teen women. Minors, a politically powerless and unorganized group, are in jeopardy of losing their right to choose between abortion and childbirth as guaranteed by Roe v. Wade and Danforth v. Planned Parenthood of Central Missouri.

In Minnesota, for example, where only half of all teenagers live with both their natural parents, the court upheld the state statute that requires an unwed woman under 18 to notify both biological parents of her decision to terminate a pregnancy. This law was enforced between 1981-1986. From 1980-84, the birth rate for women 15-17 years of age in Minneapolis rose 38.4%. In contrast, the birth rate for women 18-19 years of age, who were not covered by Minnesota law, rose only 1.3%. Most teens do consult with their parents about a pregnancy but those who do not usually have compelling reasons.

Clearly, parental notification and consent laws for minors serve only to punish teenage women for becoming pregnant. They do not foster positive communication between adolescents and their parents nor do they aid the minor in her decision-making process. These restrictive laws simply discourage abortion.

Currently, 32 states have laws on the books requiring some form of parental involvement for minors. Of those, only 11 actually enforce parental notification or consent for abortion: AL, AZ, IN, LA, MA, MO, ND, RI, SC, UT, and WY. Judicial bypass is an option in all states except Utah.

When the Minnesota law was in effect from 1981-86, it was not uncommon for as many as 23 strangers to learn about a minor's pregnancy as she attempted to obtain judicial bypass. Also in that time period, the percentage of minors having second trimester abortions increased by 26.5%. Another unfortunate consequence is the plight of teens too frightened to involve their parents or obtain judicial bypass who will then be forced to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term or self abort.

In the U.S., where the teen pregnancy rate is the highest of any industrialized nation, laws restricting abortion would significantly alter the birth rate. In a study by the City University of New York, results suggest that if abortion were made illegal, births to teenagers alone would increase by 75,000 each year.

Eight out of every ten women under 17 who have children never finish high school. In addition, statistics show that children born to teenage women are twice as likely to die in infancy than those born to women in their twenties. Children born to teenage women are also more likely to be impoverished, under-educated and poorly housed.

SOURCE: THE NETWORK NEWS 9-10/90

A Quote from an October '90 Ellen Goodman column in reference to the Souter confirmation hearings in the Senate.

"One afternoon, leaders of the women's rights organization testified (Molly Yord, Liz Holtsman & Ellie Smeal). Near the end, waiving his chance to question them, Sen. Strom Thurmond set off a linguistic alarm. He said, 'Mr. Chairman, we have a group of lovely ladies here . . . no questions.'

"One man's chivalry is another woman's chauvinism. One generation's courtesy is another generation's insult Some of the 'lovely ladies' rolled their eyes."

"Even if, at 87, Thurmond could be 'grand fathered' permission to use such phrases, what of Sen. Alan Simpson? . . . He lectured . . . on the evils of eye-rolling . . ."

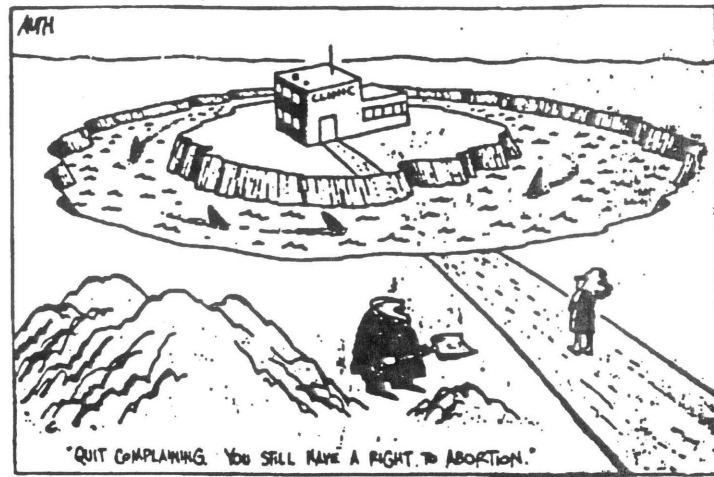
"Molly Yord of NOW . . . said 'you don't say to the men, Gentlemen, you all look lovely.' Simpson accused the women of 'a tiresome arrogance' and went on to call them deliberately, 'ladies . . . ladies.'"

"Deborah Tanner, a linguistics scholar who wrote You Just Don't Understand says that, 'the way our culture talks to women, and to people of high status are at odds If we talk in ways that get us the floor, we will be seen as bitches.' If we don't, we will, like children, be seen and not heard."

LEGAL STATUS OF ABORTION NOW

1. A recent Guam law outlawing all abortions except in cases in which a woman's life is threatened, was declared unconstitutional by a federal appeals court judge. Guam Governor

Joseph Ada is mounting a challenge to that ruling and the case may now be en route to the Supreme Court docket.



2. The same holds true for the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act of 1989, the most restrictive state abortion law passed since the Webster decision. Pennsylvania Governor Bob Casey has announced that he will appeal the injunction imposed on this law by a U.S. District Court.

3. Governors are playing a pivotal role in protecting choice as demonstrated by the actions of Idaho Governor Cecil Andrus, Louisiana Governor Buddy Roemer, Michigan Governor Jim Blanchard and Mississippi Governor Ray Mabus. All four exercised their veto power to hold in check overzealous anti-choice state legislators who were fully prepared to take away the right to choose from the women of their states.

4. We can anticipate more changes in the Court's makeup over the next few years as two of the three remaining justices who made up the majority in *Roe v. Wade* approach retirement age.

5. The U.S. House of Representatives will again take up the issue of choice, when they consider the Freedom of Choice Act. This bill would enact into federal law the underlying principle set forth in the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, prohibiting states from restricting women's right to choose to terminate pregnancy prior to fetal viability or in cases where a woman's life or health is at stake.

Source: NARAL Newsletter Fall '90

The Message of the 1990 Election

This Rutgers University based Eagleton Institute surveyed 4400 voters in New Jersey and Virginia after the November 1989 election. Two pro-choice gubernatorial candidates were victorious over their anti-choice opponents. Researchers attributed those victories to a significant block of voters who have an opinion on abortion and voted accordingly. By a margin of 2:1, voters identify themselves as pro-choice.

Our challenge is to translate pro-choice sentiments into pro-choice votes. Where candidates have used the choice issue aggressively, the voters mentioned it as an important campaign issue more frequently.

In 1990 64% of the people in the U.S. DID NOT VOTE. Abortion was not the issue that it was expected to be. We have 2 years before State & Federal elections. Here's what we can do in the meantime.

1. Continue to educate ourselves on this issue, especially the parental consent bill. This election may have signalled a conservative trend for the State Republican Party and Family protection issues/rights will surface.
2. Build coalitions with groups and organizations that have like concerns for the broader family issues of family planning, women's rights, anti-bias groups, prenatal health funding, WIC, T.V. violence, children's health insurance, etc.
3. Get uterus owners to vote as a Block as the gun owners do.
4. We need to always be assertive; we're about to lose a basic right.

The Continuous Erosion of Roe v. Wade

The Right To Abortion depends on who's in office and who's in office depends on us. We must support pro-choice candidates for all offices.

Since 1973, this is what the U.S. Congress has done to Roe v. Wade and other reproductive rights:

1. Deprived millions of poor women access to safe legal abortion, even for women pregnant from rape or incest (Medicaid cut off)
2. Cutoff of insurance for abortion for federal employees
3. Cutoff of funding for international family planning programs
4. Prevented Washington D.C. from providing abortions for poor residents, even with the city's own funds
5. Prevented Legal Services Corporation lawyers from taking abortion cases
6. Prevented Peace Corps Volunteers from having abortions covered by their medical plans and refused to pay transportation to safe hospitals for self paid abortions.
7. Cutoff of abortions for the military
8. Ban on abortion in military hospitals worldwide

Election '90—The New, "Less Improved" New York State

On November 6 we had the opportunity of the new decade, the chance to make the NYS Senate Pro-choice, and guess what folks— we BLEW IT! The Senate was one seat from being a Pro-choice majority. Leadership during 1989-90 kept the Parental consent bill tied up in committee and Senators had been persuaded to take walks during the Medicaid vote so that essentially, that one seat was not a problem.

1990 brought the advent of exciting change and reform in the State Republican party- a Pro-choice plank. Consequently, all Statewide Republican candidates in 1990 supported a woman's right to choose abortion. This, here was the golden opportunity for us to show the rest of the country that freedom of choice makes a difference at the polls. Unfortunately however, that precious moment we were so hoping to savor went up in smoke!

This year, there were some 211 State legislative races. Ninety-eight percent of the Senate incumbents and 97% of the Assembly won. Only one Senator and five Assembly persons were defeated. Twelve seats were open due either to death or retirement. In total, only eighteen faces changed within the entire legislature. And, some of these changes were not favorable ones for Pro-choice advocates and supporters.

In terms of Pro-choice seats, we lost Eugene Levy (R-C) and got instead anti-choice, Joe Holland (R-C). We are now down two seats in the Senate. Of the 4 new faces in the Senate; all are anti-choice except Steve Saland (R-C) who supports abortion rights, but probably wouldn't vote correctly on Medicaid funding or parental consent. So in essence, we are down 2 1/2 to 3 seats depending on the particular bill.

The picture in the Assembly is much brighter, we were already a Pro-choice majority there, as in the Governor's office. Of these 14 new faces, the Pro-choice factions were graced with a net gain of seven, while four Pro-choicers remained, two stayed anti-choice and one, Francis Sullivan is an unknown position, but probably will vote in favor of Medicaid funding but not so on parental consent.

The Republican party did a major turn around on the choice issue but we were not able to turn the Senate around. Unfortunately Herb London's success against Reinfret could be interpreted as a move towards more conservative politics.

The Right-to-Life Candidate for Governor, Lewis Wein, received more votes (152,183) than any other RTL gubernatorial candidate since they have been on the ballot (1978). Wein was a much more viable candidate because he was not as much of a single issued candidate as previous RTL contenders had been. Wein, when compared to Reinfret, looked like a rocket scientist. Unfortunately, both London's and Wein's "victories" even small ones, sound the conservative alarm for us.

Contributing Factors to Pro-choice Senate Loses

The low voter turn out, only 36% of those eligible to vote did so, did not allow the true manifestation of the trends we expected (i.e. anti-incumbancy or Pro-choice). The Republicans lost no seats in the Senate, even though it was expected. The message of the election is clear: the Republicans won't move to a more liberal stance. The Senate will not pass anything through that deals positively or supportively with abortion rights. Marino has gained more leverage with the governor now. The parental consent bill will probably come out of Senate Committee this year in order to placate Republican conservatives.

So, just how did we lose the election of 1990? Well, we actually lost it on the filing date: 25% of the candidates had no opponents. Rappleyea, our Assemblyman and the minority leader, was one of these running unopposed. The Democratic party, typically concerned with Pro-choice issues failed to find viable

Pro-choice candidates for three open seats in the Senate. These open seats are the obvious seats to go after. The Republicans poured money in to support anti-choice races. The Democrats failed to put their money where their mouth was. We cannot get good, strong people in place without financial backing from the party. Let's hope we can work around some of these issues until there are more favorable people in place. If, not, it is going to be two long years ahead until the next set of elections.



CALENDAR

Dec 5

Pro-Choice Meeting 6:30 pm at YWCA
GALA PIZZA HOLIDAY PARTY!
 Bring a dish to pass, a beverage and table service.
NOTE TIME CHANGE!

Jan 2

Pro-Choice meeting at 7:30 pm at the YWCA

Jan 19

March for Life at Hospital / 6 Euclid by Cortland Citizens for Life

Jan 22

18th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

Jan 28-29

Family Planning Advocates Legislative Conference in Albany.
 Coalition for Choice delegates are sought.

INTERESTED?

Call 753-3514 --- see Flyer

Choice

January 1991 -- Vol. 2, Number 1

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

ELECTION 1990: A MIXED BAG

An initial look at the election results reveals victories for both sides in the abortion debate. New pro-choice governors were elected in California, Texas, Oregon, Massachusetts, and Minnesota. In Florida, Bob Martinez, whose special legislative session to restrict abortion failed last year, was booted out by pro-choice Lawton Chiles. In Texas, Ann Richards' victory over good-ole-boy Clayton Williams was especially sweet. However, anti-choice governors were elected in Kansas, Michigan, Illinois and Ohio. Harvey Gantt's valiant effort to unseat Jesse Helms was a heartbreaker.

It appears that anti-choicers still have an edge in the State Senate. Most of the Democratic pro-choice challengers were running for the first time. They were outspent by the State Republican party desperate to hold onto their majority in the Senate in the wake of the Pierre Rinfret debacle. Although these defeats are disappointing, the challengers have gained valuable experience and credibility for 1992.

We can take heart from the news that two anti-choice referendums in Oregon were defeated, and a pro-choice ballot measure passed in Nevada.

The long campaign season is finally over. A concerted effort in the political arena is vital to preserving our right to choose. We can't expect to win every campaign, but we've made substantial progress this year. We've jumped into the political stream, and the water's fine.

Source: SPEAKOUT! Buffalo

PRO-CHOICE AD DRAWS RESPONSE: POSITIVE & NEGATIVE

Over 300 persons signed our Coalition's ad that appeared in the Cortland Standard on November 12th. Unfortunately, a few names were inadvertently omitted, a few people assumed that if they were on the Pro-choice mailing list that they would automatically appear in the ad, and a few more were disappointed that they were never asked to sign. But, there has been some wonderful response to the "You Can Count on Me" coupon which appeared at the bottom of the ad. Several hundred dollars came from new subscribers! (YEAH!!!)

Many special thanks go out to those who dedicated long hours to making the ad a success. Appreciative kudos to Julia Minoia, Kelly Walker, Colleen Kattau, Kathy Russell, and Gabrielle Dorman for their time and fine work organizing the ad.

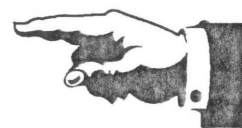
Thank you also to the six beautiful babies for gracing our page.

On the not so bright side, some 500 anti-choice people signed a 2 page Cortland Standard ad on November 26th. Their statement was that they will "support their pastor's position of life for all children." In 1983 a 2 page anti-choice ad was also run in response to our 1 page ad.

One person who was approached in a door to door canvassing for the anti-choice ad in Homer called us because she was so angry with their ad. She knew that some of the people who signed their ad would probably not consider taking an unwanted child into their homes. She indicated that she was going to approach some of these people with foster care applications because she had learned that the Department of Social Services is always in need of homes for children.

There were also three opposing letters written to the Editor against our ad. There was only one letter written in support of our ad and none opposing theirs. It is crucial to keep a balance between pro-choice and anti-choice sentiments. It reminds people that we are here, that we are the majority and that we are vocal. We can't rest on our laurels!!!

CHOICE FACTS



- On December 15th, 1990 Operation Rescue closed its national office in Binghamton, N.Y. They are "going underground" to avoid costly court penalties. Good-bye Randall Terry!!!!
- As many as 200,000 women die around the world each year from botched abortions.
- Canada has passed in one of its houses of parliament, a bill called C-43 that would virtually eliminate access to abortions unless the woman's life was in danger. This still needs to pass the other house. As a result of pressure from anti-choice groups many doctors have stopped performing abortions even though it is still legal.
- Belgium's century-old ban on abortion has finally been modified. Under a recent law passed by Belgium's parliament, abortion during the first 12 weeks will be legal if a doctor decides that the woman is in a "state of distress."
- To date, the Republic of Ireland is the only country in Europe where abortion is banned.

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR 1991 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



January brings the advent of a new and exciting year. With it comes the usual stuff: New Year's Resolutions, bills from holiday expenditures, colds, renewal notices and so on. This year, help the Coalition continue its newsletter by renewing early. We need your assistance in helping us meet the costs of our printing and mailing.

Notices will go out to people starting very soon to let individuals know when their subscriptions run out. Please help us by sending your money in quickly so that the newsletter can continue.

LEGAL ABORTION & TEENS — N.Y.C.

The National Bureau of Economic Research in N.Y. did a study to show the impact of abortion on adolescent childbearing. It found that the level of births to Black Teens in N.Y.C. fell 19% after the abortion law changed in 1970. This is 142 fewer births per month. The level for white births fell 14% or 111 fewer births/month.

Could N.Y.C. deal with an extra 253 kids born each month; 3036 each year?

BIG FUN WAS HAD AT THE PRO-CHOICE HOLIDAY PARTY

Pot luck dinners bring out the best in creative cookery from among our members. A feast was served and enjoyed on Dec. 5th at the YWCA. Thanks to all who came and shared.



RIGHT-TO-LIFE VOTING

CORTLAND

There are only 40 persons registered under the Right to Life party in Cortland County, but their strength was 10 fold in the most recent election. Their gubernatorial candidate, Louis Wein, received a total of 407 votes. Wein was a much more viable candidate than previous RTL'ers in that he was able to discuss other issues. Also, he presented well during debates. To show how the RTL party has gained momentum, one needs only look to the 1986 governor's race where there were 338 votes in the Cortland area cast for Dillion. More people (14,404) voted in 1986, so Dillion got only 2.3% of the total vote.

This year there was a total of 12,369 votes in the governor's race locally. Wein received 3.2% of the vote. State-wide, Wein got more votes (152,183) than any other RTL candidate has ever received, with the exception of D'Amato in 1980 (152,470). D'Amato has established a record of accepting the endorsement of the RTL party, he did so in both 1980 and 1986. The question we must next pose is, will he in 1992?

D'Amato has just hired Art Finklestein as his election Public Relations Director. Just in case the name doesn't ring any bells, he organized Jesse Helm's successful campaign.

STATE

In state legislative races between 1980-1990 there has been a dramatic drop in the number of candidates who run on majority party lines and who also accept the RTL endorsement. Among incumbents, there were 51 in 1980 and 8 in 1990. Looking collectively at incumbents and challengers, the numbers were 81 in 1980 and 22 in 1990.

PRO-CHOICE usually becomes a winning issue when the two candidates have opposing views and the Pro-choicer uses the issue assertively.

THE BISHOPS \$5 MILLION DOLLAR ANTI-CHOICE CAMPAIGN

If you think the "Drug Free America" ads are impressive, emotionally charged and ultimately effective, just wait until the Hill and Knowlton Anti-choice ad campaign appears on the air ways near you. The ad company has collected data from a range of sources on the position people take on abortion. This collection of information includes: a public opinion poll survey of 2,000 voters completed in August, 200 in depth interviews with people and 1,700 pages of findings and analyses from earlier surveys. These results communicate to the ad company where people stand on abortion, why they take the position they do, how the anti-choice movement is perceived and what it is in people's perception that might keep them from understanding the "Pro-life" message.

Helen Alvare, an articulate 30 year old lawyer has been appointed as spokeswoman on abortion for the Roman Catholic bishops. Her major task will be to educate news organizations about their performance in reporting on abortion. It is quite obvious that she was hired to present a "new image" (female, for a change) for the anti-choice factions.

The new efforts by the bishops are based on the premise that Americans are misinformed about the rates and causes of abortion. An August poll shows that Americans greatly underestimate the total number of abortions performed and overestimate the proportion done to save the mother's life or in cases of rape or incest.

The poll results will be reflected in the new advertisements that stress the 1.6 million abortion figure and claim that 92% of these are done for reasons other than the forementioned. Also, we will be treated to the Statue of Liberty (once again) shedding tears.

Let's hope that their catchy jingles and gory pictures don't interfere with our ability to think through this issue. Emotions are not the same as facts and freedoms.

IS A RESTRUCTURING OF THE NEWSLETTER ON THE HORIZON?

Some thoughts from the people at the last Coalition meeting have been that one way to cut our expenditures for the newsletter is to go to having a Bi-monthly newsletter. What are your thoughts? Are there other suggestions? Please let us know. You can direct your comments and concerns to Tracey at 753-3514.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Starting in January, anyone having articles for the newsletter should submit them to Tracey by the 21st of each month for it to appear in that month's newsletter. Anyone having suggestions for articles for the newsletter should also direct them to Tracey.

????????????MYSTERY QUESTION OF THE MONTH????????????

The answer to last month's cliffhanger question, "who will be Al D'Amato's campaign organizer for 1992's Senate race?"

Hold on to your hats folks, it is none other than—(Don't you love suspense?) Art Finklestein. You don't know who he is, well he was the same person who organized Jesse Helm's most recent campaign. See what we have to look forward to!

????????????MYSTERY ANSWER OF THE MONTH????????????

INTERESTING FACTS

New York remains one of a minority of states which provide medicaid funding for abortions. Do you want a ready reason for keeping the current arrangement? Michigan's experience suggests what might happen if we lost such medicaid funding here in New York.

Testimony by the Michigan Department of Public Health at a recent public hearing revealed a significant increase in neonatal birth defects since the state adopted a ban on medicaid funding for abortion two years ago. Children with defects rose by a total of 1,408. An 8% increase was added to this year's budget to cover the costs incurred as a result of these births.

GUAM TO APPEAL ABORTION LAW

GUAM—The government of the U.S. territory of Guam says it will appeal a federal court decision that struck down the law banning abortion that Guam's legislature passed earlier this year. Gov. Joseph Ada, like most of the legislature an ardent Roman Catholic, says he has decided to appeal the decision to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. The case could go to the U.S. Supreme Court as soon as 1991.

The Guam law banned abortions except when two doctors decide the pregnancy would endanger the woman's life or gravely impair her health.

—info from New York Times 9/22

NEW YORK: SUIT TO PROTECT ABORTION RIGHTS

NEW YORK CITY—The New York Civil Liberties Union has filed a suit in an attempt to ensure the abortion rights of women in the state even if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns its 1973 decision in Roe v. Wade. The suit is trying to obtain a State Supreme Court ruling that New York State constitution protects abortion rights.

The suit says that a state health program for women whose earnings exceed the poverty level violates the women's rights by not providing abortions as well as prenatal health care. The women covered by the program earn from \$6,280 a year (the federal poverty level for a single person) to about \$12,000. The state already funds abortions for poor women who receive Medicaid.

Gov. Mario Cuomo (D), who supports Medicaid payments for abortions, did not include abortion in the prenatal health care program because the Republican-controlled Senate would not have approved it.

Six other states' courts have ruled that abortion rights are protected by the state constitution—California, Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Oregon. Vermont has heard several cases on the subject in its lower courts, but the cases have not been taken to the State Supreme Court.

—info from New York Times 9/25

CALENDAR

Jan 2

Coalition meeting at 7:30 pm' at the YWCA
Join the Pro-choice Crowd to celebrate 1991!!!

Jan 19

Pledge-A-Picket Day. We think that Anti-choice factions have chosen this day to be out protesting in front of Cortland Memorial Hospital & 6 Euclid Ave.

Jan 22

18th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

Jan 28-29

Family Planning Advocates 14th Annual Legislative Conference in Albany.
Coalition for Choice delegates are sought. For more information contact
Andrea at 753-8510.

URGENT--URGENT --URGENT--URGENT--URGENT--URGENT--URGENT

RIGHT TO LIFE IS WINNING IN CORTLAND

* **NO ABORTIONS WERE PERFORMED AT THE HOSPITAL IN 1990.** RTL PROBABLY WILL NOT BE STAGING THEIR ANNUAL ANTI CHOICE MARCH JAN 19. IN FRONT OF THE HOSPITAL FOR THAT REASON.

*USUALLY ONLY MEDICAID ABORTIONS ARE DONE IN THE HOSPITAL AS OPPOSED TO THE DOCTORS OFFICE, THAT MEANS THAT **WOMEN ON MEDICAID COULD NOT OBTAIN AN ABORTION IN CORTLAND.**

*THE TWO OB-GYNS WHO DO ABORTIONS IN THEIR OFFICE HAVE STOPPED ACCEPTING MEDICAID FOR MOST ABORTIONS AND STERILIZATIONS. THIS WOULD BE THE REASON WHY THERE WERE NO ABORTIONS DONE AT THE HOSPITAL BECAUSE THESE TWO DOCTORS ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE IN TOWN PROVIDING THIS CARE.

*MOST DRAMATIC OF ALL ARE THE 1990 PREGNANCY TESTING STATISTICS FROM THE WOMENS HEALTH CENTER. THERE WAS A **32% INCREASE** IN TEEN PREGNANCIES DIAGNOSED AND MORE THAN A **100% INCREASE** IN TEENS WHO OPTED TO KEEP THEIR BABY IN 1990 COMPARED TO 1989.

*ABORTION IS NOT THE SOLUTION TO TEEN PREGNANCY; PREVENTION IS. OUR CONCERN HERE IS:

1. THE LACK OF **ACCESS** TO ABORTION SERVICES,
2. THE RIGHT TO LIFE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR FAR OUTNUMBER THE PRO CHOICE ONES
3. THEY ARE WINNING THE PROPAGANDA BATTLE IN THE SCHOOLS, THE HOSPITAL AND COMMUNITY.

THIS IS WHY WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT AT THIS TIME. THE CORTLAND RIGHT TO LIFE FORCES HAVE BEEN MOST EFFECTIVE IN 1990. WE NEED ACTIVISTS ON OUR MAILING LIST...ONES WHO CARE TO KEEP INFORMED VIA THIS NEWSLETTER AND ACTIVELY SUPPORT US IN THE STRUGGLE FOR A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO SAFE, LEGAL ABORTION. **THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER UNLESS WE HAVE RECEIVED SOME CONTRIBUTION FROM YOU IN THE LAST FOUR MONTHS.** THESE COULD HAVE BEEN IN THE FORM OF:

1. A CONTRIBUTION
2. A NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION
3. TEN VOLUNTEER HOURS
4. MONEY FOR THE 11-10-90 CORTLAND STANDARD AD
5. PLEDGE-A-PICKET CONTRIBUTION

RENEWAL FORM

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

CONTRIBUTION _____

☐ YES, CALL ME, I HAVE IDEAS AND/OR WANT TO BE MORE INVOLVED.

Choice

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

February 1991 --- Vol. 2, Number 2

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

ANTI-ROE PICKETERS STAY HOME THIS YEAR

They claim the war on TV kept other like-minded folks away. They claim victory that no abortions were done in the Cortland Hospital in 1990. Their numbers (only 65) were off from previous years. Therefore our "pledge-a-picket" fundraiser did not achieve as much as we expected. Oh well, we did make over \$110. Thanks to all who pledged.

A CHOICE FRIEND

Dr. Theodore Jacobus and I have knocked heads throughout the 1970's but that was what the decade was all about. I mellowed, he mellowed and great respect for one another grew. The Women's Health Award was presented to Dr. Jacobus in 1987. He joked that that made him the "woman of the year." In truth, he was, and ACLU named him "man of the year" because he refused to breach confidentiality and report names of women who had had abortions in his office to the State.

Dr. Jacobus has been the forerunner of and champion for reproductive rights in Cortland County.

He was the first to:

- encourage fathers in the delivery room
- do sex ed in the schools
- hire a midwife
- make sure she had hospital privileges
- do abortions

We owe him a lot. Drop him a note of thanks. He is now quite seriously ill.

Andrea Marciano

A RECAP OF GOVERNOR CUOMO'S NOTRE DAME SPEECH OF SEPT. 1984

EXCERPTS:

"... the Catholic who holds political office in a pluralistic democracy — who is elected to serve Jews and Muslims, atheists and Protestants, as well as Catholics — bears a special responsibility. He or she... creates conditions under which all can live with a maximum of dignity... where everyone who chooses may hold beliefs different from specifically Catholic ones - sometimes contradictory to them; where the laws protect people's right to divorce, to use birth control, and even to choose abortion.

... the Catholic public official takes an oath to preserve the

constitution that guarantees this freedom... freedom for all... guarantees our right to be Catholics; our right to pray, to refuse birth control devices, to reject abortion, not to divorce and remarry if we believe it to be wrong.

... to assure our freedom we must allow others the same freedom,

... I could... demand... a law against abortion not because my Bishops say it is wrong but because I think that the whole community... should agree on the importance of protecting life... No law prevents us from advocating (this)... I am free to do so. So are the Bishops. And so is Rev. Falwell.

But should I?

When should I argue to make my religious values your morality? My rule of conduct your limitation?

Must, I, having heard the Pope renew the church's ban on birth control devices, veto funding of contraceptive programs... in my state?

... religious belief(s) will not — and should not — be accepted as part of the public morality unless they are shared by the pluralistic community at large, by consensus...

To most of us the manipulative invoking of religion to advance a politician or a party is frightening and divisive...

I believe that legal interdicting of abortion by federal or state government is not a plausible possibility... it wouldn't work. Given present attitudes, it would be "Prohibition" revisited, legislating what couldn't be enforced and... creating disrespect for law in general.

... Nor would a denial of medicaid funding achieve our objectives... Our own personal view of morality ought not be considered a basis for discrimination... Equal protection clause of N.Y.'s constitution (applies here)

Catholics, the statistics show, support the right to abortion in equal proportion to the rest of the population.

Are we asking government to make criminal what we believe to be sinful because we ourselves can't stop committing the sin?

If we want to prove our regard for life in the womb, — if we care about women having real choices... and not being driven to abortions by a sense of helplessness and despair about the future of their child — then there is work enough for all of us.

... abortion will always be a central concern of Catholics, but so will nuclear weapons, and hunger and homelessness and joblessness, all the forces diminishing human life. . . .

... our work has barely begun:

The work is creating a society where right to life doesn't end at the moment of birth; where an infant isn't helped into a world that doesn't care if it's fed properly, housed, educated.

N.Y. Review of Books

CATCH-22 ALIVE and WELL

Source: ACLU Reproductive Rights Update, Nov., 1990

"Ohio's parental notification law became effective on October 5, 1990, and already minors' access to abortion in that state has been limited. Some abortion providers, fearing criminal liability, require parents to come into the clinics, provide ID, and sign a notarized statement that he or she is the parent. Others explicitly ask minors to prove that a parent has consented to the procedure.

Some Ohio judges who are hearing cases of young women wishing to bypass the notification requirement are denying requests for irrational reasons. Juvenile Court Judge Timothy Cotner denied the first bypass request he received because the minor had not proved by clear and convincing evidence that she was pregnant, even though Cotner found her mature enough to make her own decision. On appeal, the court found that proof of pregnancy was not necessary, but that proof of maturity by clear and convincing evidence was, and that standard had not been met. In desperation, the minor, unsuccessful in convincing her mother to confirm with the clinic that she had been notified, convinced her father to consent to the procedure. (Ed. note: each day that passed in this bureaucratic nightmare helped increase the medical risk for this teenager.)

On Nov. 9, Judge Leodis Harris denied the minor's request, finding that she was not mature. 'If she was mature,' he reasoned, 'she would have notified her parents.' This "Catch-22" reasoning was later affirmed by the Ohio Court of Appeals. . . and the minor may have to seek relief from the Federal District Court or travel out of state for the procedure." (Ed. note: if a teenager is found too immature to have an abortion, is she mature enough to have and raise a child???)

CANCER PATIENT FORCED TO HAVE C-SECTION WINS CASE POSTHUMOUSLY

Source: The Pro-Choice Network Newsletter Jan. 91

In a case that symbolizes a tendency for courts to pit pregnant mothers against the fetus as adversaries, a settlement recently ended a 3-year court battle between DC's George Washington University Medical Center and the family of Angela Carder.

When Carder was 25 weeks pregnant, she entered the GWU Medical Center for treatment of a recently discovered lung tumor. Without consulting her family, the hospital asked the Superior Court of Washington DC to decide whether the hospital should

medically intervene to try to save the life of Carder's fetus. The Court ordered that the Medical Center perform a Caesarean on Carder (acknowledging that it might shorten her life) despite the objections by her family and despite the desire of her attending obstetricians to let her family decide. A 3-judge panel of the DC Court of Appeals upheld the order, - and GWU surgeons performed the surgery.

The baby died a few hours after delivery, and two days later, Angela Carder also died. Lawyers for the family asked that the full 9-judge Court of Appeals consider the case and discuss more fully the issue of how Courts should balance the interests of the pregnant woman vs the asserted interest of the fetus.

The full Court overturned the earlier decisions by stating that "In virtually all cases, the question of what is to be done is to be decided by the patient — the pregnant woman — on behalf of herself and the fetus." Besides instituting a very useful and full new set of regulations, GWU also paid compensation to the Carder family.

TITLE X STILL STALLED

Source: Family Planning Advocates, Inc. Albany Memo Dec. 1990 pg. 7

Although hopes soared when the bill to reauthorize the Title X family planning program finally reached the floor of the U.S. Senate in late September for the first time in six years, the bill died on procedural grounds. The bill's failure to pass leaves unauthorized the \$171 million in the 1991 fiscal year for more than 5,100 clinics around the country that give counseling on family planning to poor women. The clinics will have to rely once again on a general appropriations bill for continued funding.

In the process, however, both houses cast favorable votes on key issues.

In the House, a four-year reauthorization of the Title X program was approved by both the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment and its parent Energy and Commerce Committee. In the course of committee action, an amendment to require parental notification for contraceptive services under Title X was defeated. This was a key vote of support for ensuring that family planning services remain available to high risk teenagers.

Family planning supporters also achieved significant political gains in the Senate in two key votes. One was an overwhelming vote, 62-36, to revoke the Reagan-Bush regulations known as the Gag Rule, prohibiting pregnancy options counseling and abortion referrals in Title X-funded facilities.

The other Senate victory was a vote rejecting the Reagan-Bush attempt to convert the Title X program into a state-administered block grant. Senator Orrin Hatch, an implacable foe of choice, introduced the damaging measure. It would have allowed individual states to determine whether they wanted a family planning program as well as set their own requirements regarding such issues as parental notice for teenagers seeking contraceptive care. His amendment failed 34-58.

Senator Moynihan voted against both the Gag Rule and the block grant measure. Senator D'Amato, who claims to be a strong supporter of family planning refused to side with family planning advocates on either vote.

RU-486 PART VI: U.S. ENTRY DENIED

Source: The Pro-Choice Network Newsletter Jan. 91

By now, it is clear to SPEAKOUT readers that RU-486 should be made available for use in the U.S., not only as an abortifacient, but for contraception and disease control. Yet no personal physician in this country is allowed access to this valuable drug. This month, we will explore the reasons why.

There are basically three groups that have prevented RU-486 from being available in this country. The first of these are anti-choice activists. They understand that if women seeking abortions could take RU-486 in the privacy of a doctor's office, anti-choice fanatics would not have a visible target in the form of a patient to harass at an abortion clinic. Women would also be less likely to have to travel distances to obtain an abortion. In the summer of 1988, the National Right to Life called for a worldwide boycott of all products made by the companies responsible for RU-486, namely Hoechst (the parent company) and Roussel-Uclaf (its subsidiary), if there was even an ATTEMPT to market RU-486 for any purpose.

The second group that has kept RU-486 out of the U.S. has been the White House under both Reagan and Bush. Their administrations have pushed a position on abortion so strident that no health organization in this country or abroad is allowed to even mention the option of abortion if they receive U.S. funding. This policy was taken one step further when the U.S. tried to prevent the World Health Organization (WHO) from conducting research on RU-486 in other countries. President Bush also has had tremendous difficulty finding a new director of NIH because of his requirement that the candidate be anti-choice.

Encouraged by administration support, Rep. Robert Dornan (R-CA) tried to pass legislation that would have prohibited any and all research in this country on RU-486. Fortunately this amendment was defeated. However, in 1989, Dornan received a letter from the FDA assuring him they would try to prevent the importation of RU-486 into this country.

The FDA got involved in this fight because there had been suggestions that RU-486 might become legally available in the U.S. under an FDA provision that allows clinical trials to be conducted on uncertified drugs at the state level. This provision makes it possible for investigational drugs to be tested, manufactured and distributed by a state without having to be a part of a federally approved study. Promising new compounds for treating AIDS have already been brought into the U.S. under this sort of state sponsorship.

The possibility of testing RU-486 in California was first suggested by Dr. Carl Djerassi, the scientist who originated the first oral contraceptive. It was raised again during the campaign for governor of California when one of the Democratic candidates, Attorney General Van de Camp, supported the testing of the drug in the Bay Area.

Early in 1990, the San Francisco organization *Every Child a Wanted Child* prepared to apply for an investigational permit to use RU-486 under protocols set by the WHO. Several months later, NYC Mayor David Dinkins announced he was willing to consider testing RU-486 in his city's hospitals.

All of this activity held great potential for bypassing the roadblocks set up by the anti-choice lobby and the White House. However, it is at this stage that the third and most significant group

enters the picture: Roussel-Uclaf itself. Despite the clamor around the world for clinical testing of RU-486, Roussel-Uclaf has refused to release any more RU-486 for use outside of approved clinics in France. This export ban holds even for the treatment of disease, because making enough RU-486 available for long-term use might mean that some of it could be diverted for use in abortions (possible through an underground market.)

Clearly, Roussel-Uclaf is attempting to avoid any further connection to the abortion controversy by their actions. Yet the great potential for RU-486 in abortions remains. When over 500 women die every day across the globe from botched abortions, it's time to put some pressure on the company with a drug that offers an alternative.

Take a few minutes to write to the addresses listed below and tell them that you support clinical testing of RU-486 in the U.S. for all its potential uses: as an abortifacient, as a birth control pill, as a treatment for breast cancer and Cushing's disease. With all the pressure they have received from anti-choice people, they need to know that there are many others who want scientific investigation to proceed without ideological constraints.

ADDRESSES:

•Roussel-Uclaf

102, 111 Route de Noisy
B.P. 9

Romainville, 93230, FRANCE (\$.45 stamp)

This is the company which developed and markets RU-486 in France

•Hoechst AG

MAIN D-6230

Frankfurt, West Germany (\$.45 stamp)

•Hoechst Celanese

Route 202-206

PO Box 2500

Somerville, NJ 08876

(Hoechst AG's subsidiary in the U.S.)

PRO-CHOICE MOVEMENT'S SECRETS REVEALED in NEW DIMENSIONS: THE PSYCHOLOGY BEHIND THE NEWS

This new discriminatory and very slick monthly magazine appears to rival Time and Newsweek, only it's glossier and more graphic. Their October 1990 issue, featured a 46 page expose on the "truth" about the Pro-Choice movement. Its letters to the editor were blatantly homophobic, pro-Reagan and anti-Mendel.

The problem in America they say is the media and their hesitancy in reporting the words of 2 Live Crew or the results of a 28 week abortion. Both of these are featured in the article. Their stated argument is "If people only knew the truth about abortion," i.e. show the women the sonograms before the abortion and she will change her mind. Like the film Silent Screams, the article belittles women's intelligence and the anguish of the abortion decision. The authors frame the problem primarily around women seeking love in all the wrong places. Promiscuity is an attempt to fill the emptiness of 'fatherlessness' with sex and the victim becomes addicted to this behavior. The cure is to return to traditional values with caring, strong and responsible fathers and husbands who know the difference between love and use."

The argument continues that the media does not give equal treatment to the anti-abortion demonstrations - they are not outraged enough with the "police brutality" against Operation Rescue, and they think bloody fetuses are too tasteless to print. The anti-choicers have given up on politicians, but hold great hope for converting the media to their view. They have created their own media i.e. Access TV programs, the Bishops' \$5 million media campaign and "Unity 90" media campaign.

The following is their idea of pro-life reporting:

1. Illegal abortion is not so bad; only 28 women died as a result of such in 1972.
2. MD's want cash for abortions so they don't have to report the income.
3. The Nazi Holocaust and the legalization of abortion in the U.S. are similar. Fetuses, like Jews, are "dangerous." The pro-choice people are brainwashed, hypnotized, and psychologically manipulated.
4. The use of "fetal tissue implants (for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease treatment) is not that much different from Nazi lamp shades made of Jewish skin."

The article was erroneous on many other counts it reported:

1. 125,000 people at the Washington Pro-choice Rally in April 1989, and 350,000 at the April, 1990 Rally for Life. The New York Times stated that 500,000 to 600,000 people were at the former.
2. Frequent reference to 28 and 32 week abortions. There is a 24 week cut off for abortions. Most MDs won't do them after 20 weeks. Abortion has always been legal for all nine months for the purpose of saving a woman's life.
3. The number of abortions reported is exaggerated compared to the CDC statistics.
4. The number of saline abortions done in the U.S. is grossly exaggerated.
5. There is constant reference to the fetus as a full human being.
6. They suggest that physicians are manipulated into doing abortions against consciences.
7. They anticipate abortions done to harvest fetal tissue: fetal scalp for the bald, fetal teeth instead of dentures, general replacements for worn out parts.

8. Euthenasia follows on the footsteps of abortion.
9. Pro-choicers are "sociopaths."

Areas of concern raised by the articles:

1. "The majority of people in the U.S. oppose abortion for the overwhelming majority of reasons that it's performed today.
2. Four to five percent of the OBGYNs used to perform abortions; now only 2% do so.
3. Very concerted media efforts are being well orchestrated and highly financed.
4. The Nazi Analogy.
5. Their misperception about the "gentleness" of Operation Rescue. CCFC has a tape of news clips available to members showing violent, sexist, racist behaviors and KKK connections of Operation Rescue actions.

KUDOS TO YOU!!!

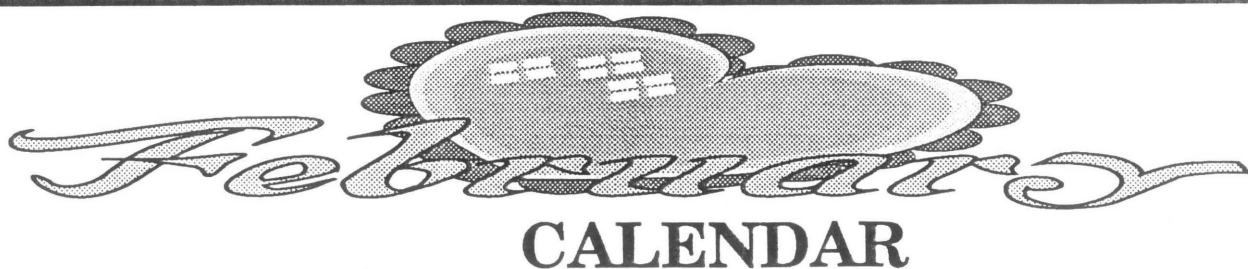
A special thank you to Gabrielle for coordinating the mailing of January's newsletter. Assisting in her endeavors were Kathy Smith, who provided the labels, and Andrea and Tracey, who provided some of the labor. Also a thank you to Julia for compiling the list of new names to be added to the mailing list. And a final thank you to Kelley Walker for making the pizza for our holiday gala.

JUST A REMINDER

If you have not paid your dues, you stand to be dropped from the mailing list. **PLEASE DON'T LET THAT HAPPEN!!! WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT, YOUR ACTIVISM AND YOUR VISIBILITY!!! PLEASE ACT NOW, OR WE WILL MISS YOU!!!**

THE CHOICE NEWSLETTER IS CITED!

The Coalition's newsletter has been used as a resource by two other newsletters, Buffalo's Coalition for Choice and the Finger Lakes Pro-Choice Coalition's. We do have a following and we are part of a larger network.



Feb 6

Coalition for Choice Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the YWCA

March 6

Coalition for Choice Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the YWCA

March 12

New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms Legislative Conference

Choice

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

March 1991 --- Vol. 2, Number 3

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

ACTION ITEMS

1. **WRITE** a letter to the editor.
The 1991 anti-choice — pro-choice score is 2 to 1
2. **WRITE** to:
Jim Seward
State Senate LOB
Albany, NY 12247

Clarence Rappleyea
State Assembly LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Let them know that N.Y. must remain one of the 13 states that provides medicaid funding for abortion.

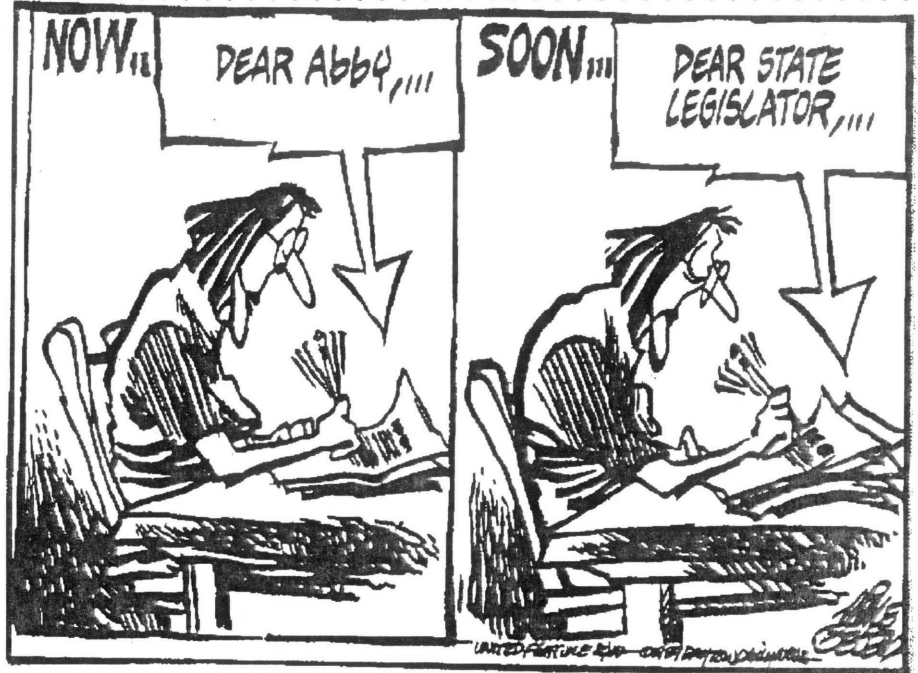
or

Ask them to codify Roe vs. Wade like Maryland did.

or

Ask them to take leadership positions in opposing parental consent bills.

3. **GET A FRIEND** to join in CCFC activities or to sign up for the newsletter. Our goal is 500 Pro-Choice families by the 1992 election.
4. **WEAR** a pro-choice button. You'll be surprised by the positive response.
5. **GET ANGRY** that RTL has been able to keep RU 486 out of this country and from developing countries too.



THE BIG LIE EXPOSED

We have been fed a big lie. The Right to Life movement in this country is fraught with contradiction and their motives in opposing abortion are questionable.

Contradiction I.

If the RTL movement so opposes abortion (which is their right and none of them ever have to have an abortion) why don't they work zealously to prevent the need for it? They could work for sexuality education in schools, new birth control technologies, school based clinics etc. Instead here are quotes from some of their leading spokespersons:

Judy Brown of the American Life Lobby says:
"we are opposed to all forms of birth control except natural family planning."

Joe Scheidler, Director ProLife Action League:
"I think contraception is disgusting — people using each other for pleasure."

J. C. Espinos, "Birth Control: why are they lying to women?"
"Technical advances permit women to avoid conception or

continuation of pregnancy. Women pay dearly for this non-freedom. First, they become slaves of their erotic sensuality, they are manipulated more easily by the male of the species, they truly become sexual things (toys), and their de-naturalization now transforms them into nothing more than large semen containers."

Contradiction II.

If RTL'ers are so ProLife, why are they not on the front lines fighting for adequate nutrition and universal health insurance and proper housing, etc. for all children? Instead those RTL'ers in Congress have almost universally voted against social programs that would increase or even maintain family planning funding to the poor, WIC nutrition programs, and other socially responsible programs.

Contradiction III.

Operation Rescue's Randy Terry has a following of mostly self-employed or unemployed males who supposedly are blocking clinic entrances because of religious convictions about when human life begins. However, nearly 60% of Terry's followers have no religious affiliation. The only pervasive attitude among them appears to be against women.

LOOK FOR

New Reproductive Technologies in March issue.
Choice and Religion in April.

PILL/IUD ABORTIFACIENTS ???

The November, 1990 issue of Female Patient has an editorial on the Louisiana abortion bill which could potentially outlaw the IUD and oral contraceptives (OCs). Their State Attorney General says that these 2 methods of birth control destroy the fertilized egg even though studies show that they work primarily by preventing fertilization. The article laments the armies of vocal but not particularly informed minorities that pressure public officials. It expresses concern for a world population of 5 billion and says that we cannot afford to restrict availability of birth control.

TEEN PROBLEMS

1. American taxpayers spent \$21.55 billion in 1989 assisting families begun with a birth to a teen.
2. 84% of teen pregnancies are unintended and one in three end up on public assistance.
3. 12% of all births are to teens. The biggest increase is in the 15-17 year old group. Almost 25% of those births to teens were repeat pregnancies.
4. At the recent Conference of Large City Boards of Education a report on teen pregnancy was issued. It said that 45 babies were born each day to teens from 5 major school districts in the State. These babies will fill 2 classrooms a day.
5. Prevention of unplanned pregnancy remains the solution and in the ideal world it would work. We don't live in the ideal world.
6. As states move to further limit adolescents' access to abortion and teens find their options even more restricted, their very lives are in danger.

ELECTION ROUNDUP: PRO-CHOICE GAINS

Nationally, pro-choice gained strength in Congress, with a net gain of two votes in the Senate and eight in the House. The pro-choice side in the Senate may now approach the 60 votes needed to avoid anti-choice filibusters.

In three major states, Florida, Texas and California, where abortion was a major issue in the campaigns, governors' seats shifted from anti- to pro-choice hands.

The pro-choice majority also won clear victories in all three state ballot propositions concerning abortion, including defeat of two anti-abortion ballot measures in Oregon. The first would have made abortion illegal except in cases of rape, incest or life endangerment; the other would have required notification of one parent 48 hours prior to a minor's abortion, without a judicial bypass option. The defeat of the second measure is particularly significant, proving that it is possible to educate the public about the sometimes thorny teen access issue and successfully preserve minor's reproductive health and privacy rights.

On a pro-active note, a Nevada proposal to write abortion guarantees into state law was approved.

Source: FPA-Albany Memo-December, 90

OREGON SUCCESS STORY

Two anti-choice initiatives were on the Nov. 1990 ballot in Oregon:

Measure #8 would ban most abortions

Measure #10 mandated parental notification for minors seeking abortions

Early polls showed 76% opposing #8 but 65-75% favoring #10. A polling company was hired. The selling job began with them testing 40-45 messages on 600 people. The campaign settled on a message that linked #8 & #10. "No going back to back alley abortions." The message was that both measures would force women to risk their lives. The campaign hammered away repetitively with that simple message rather than the intricate details of parental consent. Many news conferences and house parties were held.

The campaign cost \$1 M. National organizations such as P.P.F.A., A.C.L.U., NOW, NARAL, Women's Political Caucus and the Fund for Feminist Majority sent money and bodies. Bill & Karen Bell who lost their daughter to a parental consent law were there and they asked for 1500 college students to help hit the streets with the message. 2500 students volunteered!

The victory was sweet; both were defeated, although the vote was close for #10 — 53 to 47%.

These are costly campaigns and they are taking place in state after state, election after election.

“BODILY” INTRUSIONS”: IT DEPENDS ON WHOSE BODY

Two recent court decisions counterpose different interpretations of “bodily intrusions” with a gender bias. In “LaCrosse, Wisconsin, a circuit judge issued an order allowing two local hospitals to deliver the unborn child of a Hmong immigrant by Caesarean section despite the mother's objection to the procedure. Judge John Perlich issued the temporary order Nov. 30, saying he had to balance ‘the interests of the fetus against the interests of the mother.’ In a potential emergency, ‘the equities are in favor of the child,’ he said.” (Nat'l Law Journal, 12/7/90)

Earlier in the year we all read the case where a convicted rapist's right of privacy was protected and his medical records concealed from his victim, so she was not allowed to learn if he had AIDS. And recently in Buffalo when a man crashed through a fire station window leaving blood all over the floor, he could not be forced to have his blood tested for HIV so that firemen could know the dangers of dealing with the accident.

Having a blood test is “bodily intrusion” and a forced Caesarean is not?

Source: Buffalo Pro-Choice Newsletter 1/91

F.P.A.'s WATTLETON ADDRESS

On Jan 28 at the Family Planning Advocates Annual Conference, Faye Wattleton, Director of the Planned Parenthood Federation addressed the 900 attendees. She chided the Supreme Court for their momentary lapse in their mental judgement related to women's reproductive rights.

When freedom is breaking out all over the world, how is it that we have to go back to debating the basic right of reproductive freedom. The government is not to invade our private lives,

our bedrooms, our sex lives. Women will not be equal until they are sexually equal. How many laws were introduced in state legislatures to regulate male fertility in 1990? Four hundred bills were introduced to restrict women's reproductive rights last year.

It is not a matter of whether we (the Pro-Choice movement) like children or not. Those who would force a woman to have a child and not be committed to feeding, educating and housing that child — those are the people who do not like children. It's the Pro-Choice group who has the greatest commitment to life. We think that life is too important to come about through happenstance or out of ignorance.

SUPREME COURT WATCH

1. Rust v. Sullivan

The Court will decide whether or not federal regulations can continue to prohibit federal funding for family planning organizations that counsel about, provide referrals for or perform abortions (all done without federal money).

2. UAW v. Johnson Controls

This battery producing plant has a fetal protection policy that excludes fertile women from jobs that may pose health risks during pregnancy. Male fertility is not considered nor is general worker safety.

3. Souter Appointment to Court

We can no longer rely on the Court as our reproductive rights safety net. The strength of the pro-choice movement must be through the electoral process. There are only 2 pro-choice justices on the court since William Brennan retired. Both are in their eighties.

The Bork nomination was brilliant strategy because it basically ensured the acceptance of all future nominees as long as they weren't Bork.

GOOD NEWS!!



Maryland's governor signed a bill into a law on February 18 that codified Roe vs. Wade. This culmination of a year long fight was heartily celebrated. Even if the Supreme court overturns the landmark 1973 decision, Maryland women will still have access to abortion thus safeguarding their health and lives. Both state houses are heavily Democratic.

This law does not follow the tight trimester formulation of Roe vs. Wade. It grants women access to abortion up to the time a fetus is viable outside the womb. There is a weak parental consent clause that requires those under 18 to notify at least one parent but a physician can over ride this.

BAD NEWS!!



Utah just passed a tough anti-abortion law which bars abortion except to save a woman's life, prevent grave damage to her health or in cases of fetal defects. Rape and incest, if reported to the police, would be acceptable causes for abortion also. (See previous Nov. 90 newsletter on the rape/incest exclusion. Philosophically this is an untenable Right-to-Life position.)

The law goes into effect May 1 unless enjoined. 70% of Utah and 90% of the lawmakers are Mormons. A Utah fiscal analyst estimated the cost of \$100,000 a year to defend this law; \$500,000 if the plaintiff prevails.

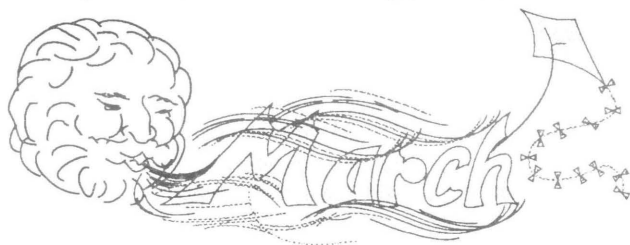
Idaho & Louisiana passed similar bills in 1990 but the governor vetoed them. The Utah anti-choice success further erodes Roe vs. Wade. Similar abortion bans are proposed in Missouri, Wyoming and South Dakota.

FPA CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

Karen and William Bell of Indiana gave a heart tearing presentation on the reasons why parental consent bills are not designed to protect young women. The Bell's daughter, Becky was proof enough to them that these laws cause more problems and damage more lives than it could ever hope to save. Becky, at the age of 17, found herself in a situation where she was pregnant. The man who helped with that was a friend of the family. When Becky told him she was pregnant, he told her to get lost. She was devastated. She did not want a child nor did she want to disappoint her parents. She decided that the only thing to do was to have an abortion. Becky did not want to tell her parents so that left her with the option of going for a judicial by-pass. However, this was not going to be easy for the single reason that the judge in the county where Becky would have to go to get permission was a well known Right to Life supporter. So, in Becky's eyes that left her a choice of going for an illegal abortion. She had a procedure. It was not done correctly. Becky became very sick, but still refused to tell her parents what had happened. She died of pneumonia that was the result of an infection.

This turned out not to be the end of this horrible situation for the Bell's. First, in their minds, they felt that being middle America, that they would have supported laws like the parental consent bill because they wanted to protect their daughter. Secondly, their grief has not ended with the death of their daughter because the anti-choice factions continuously hound them, they call their home and tell the Bell's how sorry they are about the loss of their grandchild, giving no recognition to their daughter. At anti-choice rallies, Becky's death certificate is often passed out to prove that she did not die from an abortion. (It is noted that the cause of death is septic abortion.) The Bell's have also had physicians from around the country call them disputing how Becky died. It is because of these reasons and the fact that they do not want to see other families lose their daughters, that they travel around the country trying to prevent other states and counties from passing parental consent laws that do not and can not protect the way they are intended to on paper.

The Bell's left the audience with a very powerful message, that parental consent laws hurt, maim, and even kill the ones that are being protected. There was not a dry eye in the house when Karen and Bill Bell finished, and there was not a person who felt that we, as lucky as we are in New York, should not have to guard against the possibility of there ever being parental consent laws here.



THE ANTI-CHOICE GIANTS

As if the Bills 1-point loss in Super Bowl XXV wasn't heartbreaking enough, they had to play against those "Champions for Life" New Jersey Giants. The Giant's team owner, Wellington Mara is a big contributor to right-to-life groups, and he financed a video featuring Giants players Phil Simms, Mark Bavaro, Jim Burt, Chris Godfrey, George Martin and Phil McConkey (who is from Buffalo). The video has been distributed widely, including 300 copies to the Arch diocese of Los Angeles for use in schools. Sean Flanagan of New Jersey Right to Life claims the Giants have been big supporters of his group. (One wonders if this is a team policy).

Although the Bills have a contingent of intensely religious players, they have not jumped into the abortion controversy as of yet. And let's hope they stay out of politics, concentrate on football and take the team to the Super Bowl next year!

Oh, and by the way. Which team do you suppose our local anti-choice activists were cheering for in the Super Bowl? Wouldn't they pretty much have to side with those great big Giant "Champions for Life?"

Source: Buffalo Pro-choice Newsletter 2/91

CORPUS CHRISTI REJECTS "LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION" LANGUAGE

The Texas city of Corpus Christi ("Body of Christ") was recently the site of a classic Church/State struggle. The city has been in the news this past year because of pressure exerted by Texas Diocese Bishop Rene Gracida on abortion providers and their physicians. A year ago, Gracida excommunicated Dr. Eduardo Aquino, an obstetrician who performs abortions -- to which the doctor replied that he would rather change his religious affiliation than appeal the Bishop's decision. "I will continue to perform abortions," Aquino said, "because I feel it is the right of a woman to decide what to do with her reproductive functions." Then last June, Bishop Gracida excommunicated Rachel Vargas, (director of Reproductive Services, Inc.), and threatened to do the same to Eva Bustamante who works in the new Women's Clinic.

The two clinics have also been blockaded by anti-choice groups, their patients harassed, but Nueces County Sheriff James T. Hickey refuses to enforce the trespass laws with the claim that his "duty is to protect the unborn child, not the woman." Supporters of the Sheriff organized a "first duty club" to advertise on ten billboards proclaiming "'My first duty is to God' - Sheriff Jim Hickey."

Finally, the anti-choice forces mounted a petition drive to put a city-wide initiative before the voters. The vote was scheduled for

January 19, 1991. At stake was an addition to the preamble of the City Charter to include "Human life begins at conception and continues until natural death."

Gracida played an active role in support of the initiative, distributing an open letter to be read at all masses. He took out television ads, staked pro-initiative signs on the grounds of the Cathedral and his own residence. Anti-choice spokesmen tried to allay fears by saying the changed Charter was "merely a statement of principle with no force of law." The initiative was opposed by a number of pro-choice groups, who saw the amendment as an attempt to "impose a personal religious belief on the citizens of Corpus Christi."

On January 19th the votes were counted. Surprisingly, only 30,000 people voted, a mere 10% of the city's population. The anti-choice initiative was -DEFEATED 62% to 38%.

Source: Buffalo Pro-choice Newsletter 2/91

MOVING?

GOT A FRIEND WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE ON OUR MAILING LIST?

FORGOT TO SEND IN PLEDGED MONEY FROM PLEDGE-A-PICKET?

INHERITED SOME MONEY THAT SHOULD GO TO A GOOD CAUSE?

Well, by all means get in touch with us now.

Name	_____
Address	_____
Phone	_____
Contribution (\$10 newsletter/year)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> I want to be more involved.	

For an interested friend.

Name	_____
Address	_____
Phone	_____
Contribution (\$10 newsletter/year)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> I want to be more involved.	

Write to:

C.C.F.C.

P.O. BOX 385

CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

CALENDAR

March 6
March 16

Coalition for Choice Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the YWCA
YWCA Trip to Seneca Falls National Women's Hall of Fame. Cost \$15. Departure time 9:30, Return 5:30. For more information contact Holly Greer at 753-9651

April 3

Coalition for Choice Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the YWCA

Choice

C.C.F.C.
PO BOX 385
CORTLAND, NY 13045

April 1991 - Vol. 2, Number 4

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

QUOTATION FROM THE VATICAN ON NEW REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY

"Conception in vitro is the result of the technical action which presides over fertilization. Such fertilization is neither in fact achieved nor positively willed as the expression and fruit of a specific act of the conjugal union.

"In homologous (*husband and wife's sperm and egg*) IUF and ET, therefore, even if it is considered in the context of "de facto" existing sexual relations, the generation of the human person is objectively deprived of its proper perfection: namely, that of being the result and fruit of a conjugal

act in which the spouses can become cooperators with God for giving life to a new person."



Editor's Note: Basically it can be summed up in the following manner:

**no sex without babies,
and no babies without sex**

QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH RESPONSES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

What reproductive rights issues would you, the reader (and HOPEFULLY PAID SUBSCRIBER) like to see featured in an upcoming newsletter? Tell the Editor by calling Tracey at 753-3514 or by writing in care of the Coalition for Choice, P.O. Box 385, Cortland.

**RECYCLE THIS NEWSLETTER
SHARE IT WITH A FRIEND**

REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY, ABORTION AND RU 486

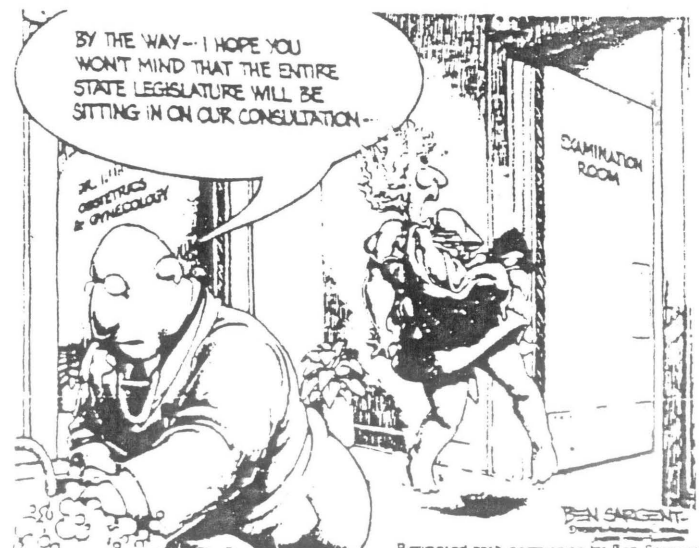
What effect does the development of technology have on the public debate about abortion?

If history is any guide, the answer would seem to be that as technology develops, attitudes proscribing the achievement of results that were technologically difficult and dangerous to produce became more accepting as the results became technologically simpler and safer to produce.

For example, the advent of abdominal amniocentesis and the testing of fetal cells was accompanied by an increased public acceptance of therapeutic abortion. No small part of the reasoning which went into *Roe v. Wade* results from the legislative history of restrictive abortion statutes as designed to protect pregnant women from dangerous procedures.

According to the Supreme Court's logic, as abortion procedures become safer to the point where first trimester abortions carried fewer risks

continued on page 2



Reprinted with permission by Ben Sargent

Reproductive Technology

continued from page 1

than carrying fetuses to term, the state's interest in protecting women from the risks of early abortion receded to the point of disappearing.

RU 486, the so called French abortion pill, will reportedly empower women to control their reproduction much more effectively than does current technology. It operates, so we are told, after conception, and is therefore labeled an abortifacient rather than a contraceptive.

This classification makes it anathema to those who would deny women the right to control their reproduction in ways that go beyond contraception as well as those who would deny women full access to contraceptive information and technology. This is the reason for the all but total ban on the importation of RU 486, even for research purposes having nothing to do with abortion, or even with reproductive control.

And, convincingly, the opponents of RU 486 are precisely right. If the public debate on abortion is to continue, and if those who would deny woman the right to control their reproductive activity other than by contraception and abstinence are to win the day, they must prevent this technology from becoming commonplace.

For while it is one thing to muster picketers to block access to abortion clinics or doctor's homes, it will prove much more difficult to act against 100 million women taking pills to control reproduction.

Will this mean the end of the debate about the morality of abortion? It is doubtful. But, it will probably mean the end of well-organized political opposition to what abortions remain. And that scenario, together with the significant reduction in the necessity for abortion, is all to the good.

NORPLANT LOSS OF REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

A California Superior court judge ordered a woman who was found guilty of child abuse to receive Norplant as a condition of her probation. The woman was not informed that surgery was involved, that it was semi-permanent, has side effects and could be contra indicated with her health problems as a diabetic, with a heart murmur and hypertension.

An appeal is pending. The judge said that the protection of children supercedes this individual's right to procreate. The problem is that the solution does not necessarily protect her children. ACLU argues that the woman has the right to bodily integrity - to control her own body.

*Letters to the editor are 5 to 1 in
avor of the ruling. Norplant requires
informed consent. Who will insert
them when it is against her will?
Where are the Right to Life's
hen we need them?*

Forced use of contraceptives/sterilization is not the answer. Voluntary, informed choice is.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD IN SYRACUSE IS TORCHED THREE TIMES: Woman Gets Probation

"She is not a threat to the community" according to her lawyer. "She was apparently caught up with the fervor of the Operation Rescue."

This 25 year old woman who attempted to set fire to Planned Parenthood three times over a six day period last year was given five years probation.

She used newspapers and magazines with her mailing label on them to start the fires.

3-24-91 NY Times Ad by the American Civil Liberties Union

A Utah law banning most abortions goes into effect April 28, 1991. It was rushed through the legislature in just 5 days. The public hearing was held at 8:00 AM on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, a federal holiday. Under the law, a zealous prosecutor could bring 1st degree murder charges against a woman who has had an abortion. A law passed eight years ago made illegal abortion a capital offense. Capital offenses are punishable in Utah by A FIRING SQUAD or LETHAL INJECTION. With so little time and imput the forgers of this law overlooked this previous law. It will take \$1M to take this law to the Supreme Court.

Please, Please, Please:

1. Write your congress people to support the Freedom of Choice Act that codifies Roe v. Wade so we are not fighting this in every state.
2. Write Gov Norman Bangerter, 318 State Capitol, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
3. Send \$\$\$ to ACLU, 132 West 43 St, Dept LN, NY, NY 10036.

CHOICE FACTS

- ProChoice incorporates ProLife positions, but the reverse is not true.
- 20% of teens get pregnant within a month of initiating sexual intercourse.
- 50% get pregnant within 6 months.
- Only one third of all teens regularly use contraception
- 5 out of 6 teen pregnancies are unintended
- 40% of all American women get pregnant in their teen years
- 67% of teen moms live in poverty
- Only 1 in 50 teen moms will finish college

FEMINIST OBJECTIONS TO THE NEW REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY

As in Margaret Atwood's, *The Handmaid's Tale* will the new reproductive technologies steal women's unique reproductive abilities from them? Will women be breeders and children merely products?

There is a feminist network to reseal reproductive and genetic engineering called FINRRAGE. Their objections revolve around the following arguments.

Despite the fact that infertility is 40% women, 40% men and 20% unknown in etiology, it is the female that gets treated. Reproductive technologies remove the intimacies in one's sex life as medical specialists take over. The very existence of NRT constitute a sort of coercive offer to infertile couples in a very pronatal society.

The meaning of motherhood is questioned by NRT's. Children are commodified. Once the embryo is treated as a product can the drive for an ever improved model be far behind?

Source: March '90
Hastings Center Report

A Glossary of New Reproductive Techno-Terms

AID: Artificial insemination by donor

ATH: Artificial insemination by husband

Cryopreservation: The preservation of sperm, embryos and oocytes by freezing them at extremely low temperatures

Embryo lavage: A flushing of the uterus to recover a preimplanted embryo

Embryo transfer: The transfer of an in vitro fertilized egg from its laboratory dish into the uterus of a woman

GIFT: Gamete intrafallopian transfer. A technique of medically assisted conception in which mature oocytes are surgically removed from a woman's body and then re-introduced, together with sperm, through a catheter threaded into the fallopian tubes, where it is hoped fertilization will take place

Infertility: Inability of a couple to conceive after 12 months of intercourse without contraception

IUF: In vitro fertilization. A technique of medically assisted conception (sometimes referred to as "test tube" fertilization) in which mature oocytes are removed from a woman's ovary and fertilized with sperm in a laboratory

Surrogate gestational mother: A woman who gestates and carries to term an embryo to which she is not genetically related, with the intention of relinquishing the child at birth

Surrogate mother: A woman who is artificially inseminated and carries an embryo to term, with the intention of relinquishing the child at birth. (A controversial term since it incorrectly implies that she is not the genetic mother)

ZIFT: Zygote intrafallopian transfer. A technique of medically assisted conception in which fertilized oocytes are introduced by catheter into the fallopian tubes

(SOURCE: *Infertility: Medical and Social Choices*, Office of Technology Assessment, U.S. Congress, 1988)

Letters to the Editor

"Please keep the newsletter on a monthly basis. It's the only place one can get all the prochoice news."

"I should have read your newsletter more carefully and supported the pro choice issue. Now our family is facing a crisis pregnancy."



EDITOR'S NOTES

As your editor becomes more versed in computer generated mailing labels and layouts, she becomes much more appreciative of those who have been doing this valuable work over the past two years. To Betsy Gillim, Ruth Grunberg, and Kathy Smith, **A GREAT BIG HUG OF THANKS!!!**



THANKS TO ALL OUR RECENT DONORS! FEELING GUILTY?

If you still are receiving this newsletter and haven't made a contribution of some sort recently, (i.e. volunteering at newsletter mailings, writing a prochoice letter to the editor or sending a subscription renewal or pledge-a-picket monies) then you have slipped through the computer cracks. To purge yourself of the guilt send a check immediately.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

\$5, \$10 OR OTHER _____ CONTRIBUTION
FOR THE NEWSLETTER

WANT TO BE MORE INVOLVED? _____ YES!!

RELIGION / CHOICE

Next month's newsletter will be devoted to the topic of **Prochoice and Religion**. You are welcome to submit articles. Enclosed is a draft of a brochure that we have prepared including local resource persons. We would truly appreciate more clergy names so please contact sympathetic ones to see if they will sign on. See Andrea for the permission slip.

PLEDGE-A-PICKET PROCEEDS TOP \$170!!!

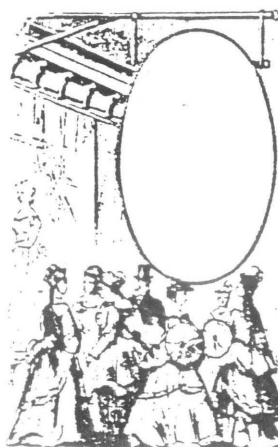
If you have an outstanding pledge please send it in. Thanks to all you folks with a sense of humor who pledged an amount of money for each hospital picketer on *ROE v. WADE* Day in January. The more they had the more we made!!!

THANK YOU CORNER

Warm thanks to Jutta Dotterweich for organizing the mailing of February's Newsletter. Also thanks to her crew (Martha Atkins, Ruth Grunberg, Andy and Trace) for their valuable assistance.

KUDOS and THANKS to Kathy Smith for the Labels and Janet and Henry Steck for compiling the college mailing list.

The March mailing was completed thanks to Andrea and Tracey, with labels provided by Kathy Smith. THANKS to ALL!!!



CALENDAR

Wed., April 3rd
Coalition for Choice
Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
at the YWCA. Use
back entrance

C h o i c e

C.C.F.C.
PO BOX 385
CORTLAND, NY 13045

May /June 1991 – Vol. 2, No. 5

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

MAY - A REAL BAD MONTH FOR CHOICE

1. We were skunked in the Cortland School Board elections.
2. We were threatened with an injunction against Planned Parenthood educators presenting at Groton High School.
3. The Supreme Court handed down a devastating ruling on the "Gag" rule.

If you've never written a letter on behalf of Choice, please do it now.

SKUNKED AT THE SCHOOL BOARD AGAIN

For the second year in a row, Right to Life (RTL) forces have out-voted the regular people in the city of Cortland and put their candidate in office. Their voting successes come from strong organizing and phone trees through the Catholic Church and probably several fundamental churches as well.

School Board members John Poli, 1990 and Chuck Menapace, 1991, both oppose the school policy that protects student-counselor confidentiality in reproductive health issues. They would have a school counselor notify parents if a child reports a pregnancy to the counselor. Because schools deal with students who are victims of incest and parental violence, confidentiality needs to be protected. Because the student-counselor relationship is based on trust, confidentiality must be preserved. Besides, it's the law!

Please recall that two of the four high school counselors are members of New Life Bible Church and Adoption Agency. One was reprimanded several times for keeping an open Bible on his counseling desk.

This is a critical year; this is the year that Supt. Harvey Kaufman's replacement will be chosen.

In these small elections, (1000 voters), one can more easily see the results of phone networking. We got skunked at the polls because the majority did not vote. Those that did vote did not take others along with them.

IT'S TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT — GROTON RIGHT-TO-LIFERS STRIKE AGAIN

An injunction threatened Groton schools if they allowed Planned Parenthood of Tompkins County

(PPTC) staff to present workshops at Student Awareness Day, May 2. Cortland's Lynn Marie Kohn (RTL lawyer practicing in Groton) threatened an injunction against the school. It was withdrawn when the school board, the administration, and 10 RTL parents compromised to allow the PPTC workshops to be held if the parents could sit in (but remain silent).

Actually, several parents changed their mind when presented with all the facts and disassociated themselves from Patrina Fadel, their leader (Patrina will be remembered from her comments at the May 1990 Cortland School Board meeting on the parental notification issue. She erroneously stated that Groton schools notify parents in the case of pregnancy).

In preparation for this anti-PPTC action, three of the four churches in Groton had sermons urging members to keep PPTC out of their school. (The 4-28-91 *Herald-American* reported an interview with the Catholic priest on this issue).

The piece on page 4 entitled "Facts About Planned Parenthood" was distributed throughout Groton before this incident. It uses quotes rather loosely borrowed from various biographies of Margaret Sanger and from national PP reports. Sanger (like Jefferson, the slave holder) didn't quite transcend her times in the area of eugenics. (Ed. Note: One interesting piece from another Sanger biographer has Sanger questioning a German physician in the 1930-40's. She asked why he relied on abortion rather than teaching women about the diaphragm. The physician replied something to the effect that with abortion the future of the human race was in his hands—read 'white male professionals'). *continued on page 3*

The regular monthly Choice meeting will be held on **June 26th, 7 p.m. at the YWCA**. Please note time and date change. Judi Doherty from the Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion will be at our meeting as part of her statewide tour. They are pros in organizing a politically effective pro-choice group to: amass names for a voter education/activation list, identify people who will vote the issue, educate year-round, and change politicians' perceptions of pro-choice strength.

The Bible on the Relative Worth of Pregnant Women and the Fetus

From Exodus 21:22-25 This is a reference to a pregnant woman who has a miscarriage as the result of a fight between two men. The penalty for the loss of the fetus was a fine; whereas if the woman was injured or killed, the penalty was a "life for a life, eye for an eye."

The woman had a greater moral and religious worth than the fetus which was a loss of property to the father. Judaism generally views the fetus as a part of its mother, thus, the fetus may be removed for the sake of the pregnant woman.

Religious Groups that Support Choice

The Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights includes 134 Mainline Protestant, Jewish and other denominations committed to choice.

RCAR has two addresses:

3049 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13224, and
100 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington DC 20002.

Catholics For Free Choice

2008 17th St. NW, Washington DC 20002

National Council of Jewish Women

53 West 23rd St. NY, NY 10010

United Church of Christ

105 Madison Avenue, NY, NY 10016

American Jewish Congress

15 E. 84th St., #407, NY, NY 10028

The Episcopal and the United Methodist Churches oppose abortion as a method of birth control or for "convenience", but otherwise allow abortion.

**Enlarge our
circle of support
Recyle this newsletter to a friend—
and get him/her to subscribe**

Hill & Knowlton Campaign Tries to Co-opt "Choice"

Co-operation is the name of the game in Hill and Knowlton's \$5 million advertising campaign for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The campaign, financed with funds provided by the Knights of Columbus, appeared in *The Washington Post* on the 18th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Proclaiming that "The Natural Choice is Life," the campaign steals *Choice* — the key word and concept of the reproductive rights movement.

Moreover, the use of "natural" makes a not-so-subtle appeal to environmentalists and to the growing number of Americans concerned about foods and substances that are artificial or not naturally processed. The word also connotes the Catholic Church's approach to birth control, since the "natural," method, or rhythm is the only method church doctrine will allow.

The campaign's overall thrust is to trivialize the reasons women choose abortion, thereby portraying women who exercise the right to abortion as irresponsible.

In responding to this and other similar attacks on abortion rights, reproductive rights advocates continue to stress that this is a complex issue. They note that the bishop's ad campaign simply disregards the real-life problems of women and children.

The solution to abortion is not to outlaw it, but to end the cause . . . unintended pregnancy. According to the National Research Council, contraceptive failure results in as many as *two million* unintended pregnancies each year.

"Natural" birth control, which fails 20% of the time, should not be a woman's only means of birth control. In fact, the rates of abortion and of repeat abortions cited in the bishops' own ad campaign demonstrates the need for comprehensive sexuality education and readily available, affordable, and effective contraception.

SOURCE: SYRACUSE PLANNED
PARENTHOOD NEWSLETTER

NOW MORE THAN EVER KEEP INFORMED

Support our Coalition for Choice — 300 Families Strong
PO Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

Name _____ Contribution: \$100 ____ \$50 ____ \$25 ____ \$10 ____

Address _____

City _____ Phone _____

☐ I wanted to be more involved; call me.

☐ All newsletter subscriptions - due every January

continued from page 1

SUPREME COURT GAGS LOCAL FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC

Can the demise of Roe v. Wade be far behind?

This is serious! The Gag Rule promulgated in 1987 as part of Title X Family Planning regulations was a radical departure from 17 years of legislative history for this federal program.

President Reagan administration failed to persuade Congress to pass a Human Life amendment or other restrictions on abortion, so he unilaterally changed Title X's the regulations in opposition to Congress's intent.

Any agency such as the Cortland County Health Dept.'s Jacobus Center for Reproductive Health (formerly Women's Health Center), funded by Title X, will not be able to utter the "A" word.

Women and teens in need of subsidized service come to Title X clinics for preventive health care and contraceptive services as well as pregnancy testing. Full options counseling for unplanned pregnancy can no longer be provided under this ruling.

Now this regulation creates a separate and unequal care system for those with the least voice in government.

Already poor women cannot get abortions funded by Medicaid in most states. NY State is an exception. Now, poor women who depend on family planning clinics cannot even get information or referral for abortion; rich women continue to have access through private physicians.

Judge Souter voted to uphold the Executive Authority in this case. Sandra Day O'Connor voted to overturn. The issues here are:

1. First amendment rights to free speech are violated.
2. The right of patients to have fully informed consent is violated.
3. The physicians/practitioner confidentiality relationship is betrayed.
4. Four million women nationally, 300,000 in NY, and 3500 in Cortland are denied access to abortion information because they are poor or young and go to subsidized clinics.
5. The regulation explicitly seeks to manipulate low-income pregnant women into following a particular course of action — carrying the pregnancy to term — by denying them information on their options.
6. Women with AIDS*, victims of rape or incest, women with ectopic pregnancies will not be able to get information from the people who diagnose her pregnancy — the logical source for medical information.

** Two babies have already been born to HIVpositive Cortland women.*

***Write to your representatives —
Let the majority be heard***

Sen. Alphonse D'Amato (R)
520 Hart Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-6542

State Office
Buffalo - (716) 846-4111

Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R)
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Rep. Boehlert's Toll Free Number: (800) 235-2525

Congressional Switchboard (*all members*): (202) 224-3121

Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D)
464 Russell Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-4451

State Office
Oneonta - (607) 433-2310

**Demand positive Congressional action
on the Chaffee-Wyden Bill and
the Freedom of Choice Act**

Case Decision Announced A SMALL PIECE OF GOOD NEWS!

The NY State Supreme Court ruled in OUR FAVOR in the case challenging exclusion of abortion from the expansion of Medicaid eligibility for other medical services to pregnant women up to 185% of the federal poverty level.

The judge ruled that the exclusion of abortion from the state's Medicaid expansion violates state constitutional guarantees (*independent of federal constitutional guarantees of due process, privacy and equal protection*).

This is of tremendous significance, since it is the first time a NY court explicitly recognized that the State Constitution protects a woman's right to abortion, and more broadly, her right to reproductive choice and services affecting procreation (such as contraception) as well.

Justice Carmen Ciparick of Manhattan stated that the Medicaid prenatal program "impermissibly pressures eligible indigent women toward childbirth, abridging a constitutionally protected right." She cited the case of a pregnant 19 year old with sickle cell anemia who was advised to have an abortion due to poor health (and poor prospects for the pregnancy) but could only obtain state-financed prenatal care; she was denied coverage for an abortion.

Gov. Cuomo announced that the decision—which he termed "really significant"—will be appealed. We'll keep you posted. In the meanwhile, we're pleased with the early results.

Source : FPA Announcement 4/17/91

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH : Judge Bour-
risseau of Michigan said he could think of
only two instances in which he might
allow a minor to have an abortion without
parental consent: "cases of incest or the
rape of a white girl by a black man."**

RIGHT TO LIFE HANDOUT TO STIR OPPOSITION TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD SPEAKERS IN GROTON SCHOOLS

FACTS ABOUT PLANNED PARENTHOOD

PLANNED PARENTHOOD'S HISTORICAL ROOTS

Margaret Sanger (1879-1966) was editor of the "Birth Control Review" from 1917-1938 and founder of Planned Parenthood in 1942. In her first newspaper "The Woman Rebel," Sanger wrote, "I look forward to seeing humanity free someday of the tyranny of Christianity no less than Capitalism." She espoused a theory of racial superiority in the "Birth Control Review" and eugenic aims in her book THE PIVOT OF CIVILIZATION (1922). Below are some quotes from these works.

1. "More children from the fit, less from the unfit- that is the chief aim of birth control." (Sanger-May, 1919)
2. "Birth Control: to create a race of thoroughbreds." (Sanger-November, 1922)
3. "The maternity facilities for slum mothers, are injurious to the community and the race. Charity will only prolong the misery of the unfit." (Sanger-1922) Sanger labeled the poor as "human weeds," although, as the sixth of eleven-children, she never applied her theories to her own Irish family. In 1920 Sanger decried the rising number of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe-Jews, Italians, and Slavs. She also advocated reducing the population of blacks. (Today, black babies are aborted at a rate far in excess of their presence in the overall population.)
4. In her book WOMEN AND THE NEW RACE, Sanger wrote that "the most merciful thing a large family can do to one of its infant members is to kill it." (1920)
5. In April, 1933, the "Birth Control Review" published an entire edition on eugenic sterilization. One article was written by Dr. Ernst Rudin, curator of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology, Human Genetics, and Eugenics during Hitler's Reich.
6. Sanger advocated eugenic, compulsory sterilization. "There is only one reply to a request for a higher birth rate among the intelligent and that is to ask the government to first take the burden of the insane and feeble-minded from your back. Sterilization for these is the solution." (1926)

In a 1986 speech, Faye Wattleton, Planned Parenthood's present president, claimed that she was "proud" to be "walking in the footsteps" of Margaret Sanger.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD TODAY- "You can tell a tree by its fruit"(Matthew 7:20)

Planned Parenthood's top national priority is keeping abortion on demand legal. (PPFA 1989 Annual Report) They lobby against parental notification and consent laws. (Their Groton yearbook ad stated, "We won't tell your parents about your visit...but you can.") They also promote value-free sex education.

Planned Parenthood is a major abortion provider in the U.S., with an abortion facility in Ithaca. In 1988, Planned Parenthood aborted 111,000 babies and provided prenatal care to only 3,400 women. In 1989, they aborted 122,191 babies and gave only 4,732 mothers pre-natal care. 70-80 % of pregnant women "counseled" by Planned Parenthood choose abortion. They treated 494 patients for infertility in 1989 and dispensed contraceptives to 1,731,130 people. Since the Pill and IUD act as abortifacients, it is clear that abortions are BIG business for Planned Parenthood. They are now pushing for the introduction of RU 486, the abortion pill, into the U.S.

Christian values teach abstinence before marriage and fidelity after marriage, the only 100% effective method for preventing the transmission of AIDS. (Apart from sharing contaminated needles or AIDS contaminated blood.) In the syllabus on AIDS drawn up in Albany, Appendix C states, "The Board of Regents view the use of condoms as extremely high risk behavior." One study shows a 4% breakage rate for condoms. Planned Parenthood advocates using condoms to reduce the risk of a disease that is 100% fatal. (Like playing Russian Roulette.) Other birth control methods they sell offer NO protection against AIDS. By speaking in public school systems, Planned Parenthood seeks to gain legitimacy and respectability which they do not deserve.

RECOMMENDED READING

MARGARET SANGER : FATHER OF MODERN SOCIETY by Elasah Drogin (1979)- available for \$5 from Catholics United for Life, New Hope, KY 40052.

GRAND ILLUSIONS- THE LEGACY OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD by George Grant (1988) Wolgemuth & Hyatt Publishers, Brentwood TN.



INSIDE PLANNED PARENTHOOD by Douglas Scott (1990)- available for \$10 from the Christian Action Council, 101 W. Broad St., Falls Church, VA

Choice

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

July-August 1991 --- Vol. 2, Number 6

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER



**WRITE TO BUSH
WRITE TO D'AMATO
WRITE TO SOUTER
WRITE TO MITCHELL
WRITE TO FOLEY
WRITE TO DOLE
DO IT NOW, TODAY.
JUST DO IT.
PLEASE!**

THE GAG RULE

May 23rd the Supreme Court handed down the Rust v Sullivan decision (5-4) which upheld federal regulations promulgated by the Reagan administration in 1988. They have been enjoined by the Courts for the past 3 years. Fifteen states including NY challenged these rules for federally funded family planning clinics.

The Jacobus Center for Reproductive Health of the local health department receives its funds from the State and the State is the conduit for these Title X funds. Approximately 25% of the State's program is funded with federal dollars. Currently the State is in no position to make up these dollars.

The Gag Rule says:

1. Low income women & teens can not receive information on the abortion option even if they ask.
2. Family planning services and abortion services must be physically and financially separate.
3. No materials can be developed or distributed that are not explicitly anti-choice.
4. Only referrals that promote the health of the woman & the "unborn child" can be made.

Before these rules were modified, the guidelines required that women be given non-directive counseling about all legal options. Now clinics can only give biased and incomplete information even to women who may die as a result of carrying her pregnancy to term.

EIGHT CALLS OR EIGHT LETTERS

Overturning the "gag rule" is our number one legislative priority. We need you to contact your elected officials and Congressional leadership immediately about this issue. The following letter is addressed to our politicians in Washington. We are asking each of you to take twenty minutes to rewrite the letter in your own hand writing, (as hand written letters carry more weight in their offices). Two letters should have bill number S-323 (Chafee) inserted in the blank and be mailed to Senator Alfonse D'Amato, 520 Hart Building, Wash., D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6542 and to Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, 464 Russell Bldg., Wash., D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4451. Another copy should be addressed to Sherwood Boehlert, U.S. House of Representatives, Wash., D.C. 20511 (202) 225-3665. It can have bill number HR 392 (Porter, Wyden) filled in the blank. The following people also need to hear from us:

President Bush, The White House, Wash., D.C. 20500 (202) 456-1414, Senator Mitchell, Senate Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Wash., D.C. 20510 (202) 224-5556, Congressman Foley, U.S. House of Representatives, Wash., D.C. 20515 (202) 225-2006 and Senator Robert Dole, U.S. Senate, Wash., D.C. 20510 (202) 224-3135. Justice David Souter, U.S. Supreme Court, Wash., D.C. 20543.

GAG RULE SAMPLE LETTER

I am writing to urge you to take immediate action in support of bill number _____ to reverse the Title X gag rule and restore quality health care for all women, regardless of income. Low-income family planning patients need full information in order to make informed choices about their care. The gag rule prohibits family planning clinics which receive Title X funds from providing any information about abortion, even to women whose lives or health are endangered by continuation of pregnancy, those with fetal abnormalities, victims of rape or incest, and women with AIDS. Full information is required for all other services. If physicians cannot advise their pregnant patients of all medical options, they are committing forced malpractice. These regulations will only increase the number of abortions by defunding the family planning clinics which are responsible for preventing over a million unintended pregnancies each year.

**MOVED? Be sure
you are registered to
VOTE.**

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

July 28, 1981

Dear Orrin:

Thank you for your letter of July 26, regarding the conference on reconciliation between your Labor and Human Resources Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee. I regret that we do not have the votes to defeat the family planning program and, assuming this is the best you can do under the circumstances, I reluctantly conclude that the best course is to enter into the proposed conference agreement. Perhaps we can remedy some of the problems in the family planning program administratively during the three years that it will remain as a categorical grant.

Thank you for your support and for the good job you are doing under difficult circumstances.

With kindest personal regards,

Ron

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

WHY GRASSROOTS ARE IMPORTANT

Everyday your mail probably brings you appeals from state and national organizations. But the first line of success for any movement is at the local level. The reason for this is that politicians respond primarily to the voters in their own districts.

Our newsletter, our ads, our letters to the editor (we need more), our pledge-a-picket on January 22, our clergy statement (see enclosed), our turn-out for important local political events and our members who vote and lobby (we need more) — all these things constitute our local presence. We know our county. We are the majority and we need to continually let our politicians know that the back alley for teens and poor women is one step away from the back alley for all of us. The promise of Roe must be for everyone.

WHAT THINGS COST DEPARTMENT

RTL'ers are always putting pressure on the State legislature to stop funding medicaid abortions because of the State's fiscal crisis. Consider that it costs:

1. \$120 for Medicaid funded Family Planning services for one year

2. \$200-350 for an Abortion
3. \$3800-5000 for Prenatal Care & Delivery
4. \$4000-5400 for one year AFDC for Mother & Child

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

United States District Judge E. B. Halton dismissed a suit by a woman who said she lost her job after spurning her boss. The judge sided with the defendant after considering the evidence, which included a picture of the boss's wife to contrast with the plaintiff. His opinion noted that the former employee "wore little or no make up and her hair was not colored in anyway" and therefore, she "was not attractive" to the boss.

In Halton's view, a woman does not merit sexual harassment if she has not devoted enough time and attention to adorning herself.

Maureen Dowd NYT

RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE ON CHOICE

We're very excited to send you our brochure with signatures from 10 courageous religious leaders. Please make a point of thanking them and if your clergy or clergy-friend is pro-choice and not listed, urge her/him to consider joining for the next edition. Apologies to Richard B. Platt of the Unitarian Church for he was mistakenly called Paul in the brochure.

This brochure will be distributed in quantity to the 10 who signed and everyone on our mailing list is receiving one with this newsletter. This is a very important document because RTL'ers always think that they stand on the religious high ground. Quantities are obtainable by writing to P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045.

!MERCI BEAUCOUP FOR NEWSLETTER and COALITION WORK!

To Lois and Ruth for their "Mac" Miracles in forming, etc.

To Tracey for all the mailing and writing.

To those who send us important articles/newsclips.

To Betsy for her account keeping.

To Doug who has done such a nice job with lay out in the previous 6 months.

To Andrea for writing, etc.

To Kathy who maintains the mailing list and labels

YOU ARE GREAT!!!

NON-ACTIVISTS ON OUR MAILING LIST — SHOULD THEY STAY?

Most people on our 300 person list have made a financial contribution to our organization. We have just removed a large number of persons from our mailing list because we had not heard from them. But we're wondering if this was a smart move. Maybe we should just continue to amass a significant number of people on the list who have in some way identified themselves as Pro-Choice.

Most people are not activists, most will not demonstrate, write politicians or lobby. But maybe they will vote and that's our goal. So let us know if you think that we should also carry the larger non-active membership who might scan our newsletter and who might take our voter's guide to the booth with them. Pro-Choice People need to be Pro-Choice Voters. The victories will only be at the polls because the Supreme Court will soon overturn Roe v. Wade especially now with the 6/26/91 resignation of Thurgood Marshall.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Lynne Marie Kohm of Webster & Kohm, Attorneys and Counselors at Law, Groton, New York (June 13, 1991)

Dear Editor:

It has recently come to my attention that my name was mentioned in your May-June Volume II, No. 5 issue regarding Groton School Teen Awareness Day on May 2nd.

I regret to inform you that your facts are wrong. I did not threaten an injunction. You might take note that lawyers do not bring any actions, only on behalf of their clients.

Eight families came to me asking to bring a temporary restraining order against the school and against Planned Parenthood of Tompkins County, as well as the Planned Parenthood branch of Cortland, the Jacobus Center.

At my insistence, I asked the clients to consider mediation first before bringing a legal action. Please take note of that.

Please also take note that we were able to mediate a resolution which included the exclusion of all Planned Parenthood branches from next year's Teen Awareness Day. Also, you might want to correct your facts; there were 29 parents there to oppose the Planned Parenthood workshops.

I would also just give you a word of warning to be careful how you slander people in your letters. There may be some repercussions with that, and you may just want to consider what the true facts are before you print something.

Thank you very much for your attention to this. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Editor's note: We've had lots of interesting and good responses to our last newsletter! It obviously got to RTL'ers even though we just reduced our mailing list to "paying customers."

TWO RIGHT-TO-LIFERS RUNNING FOR CITY COUNSEL IN NOVEMBER

The Cortland County Republican Party has endorsed Gregory Leach of Cedar St. for 8th Ward Alderperson and Gary Whitmarsh of 5 Elm St. for 5th Ward. Both signed the huge Anti-choice ad on Nov. 26, 1990 sponsored by the Evangelical Ministries Association of Cortland County. Never underestimate the organizing power through these churches.

Let's take a lesson from the city school board elections; we have been skunked two years in a row. There are now 2 RTL'ers on the Board because of voter apathy. We are the majority and we're talking about the life and safety of women.

KISS ROE GOODBYE; Marshall Resigns Supreme Court

If there was any doubt about the demise of Roe v. Wade on Wednesday 6/26/91 then there was no doubt on Thursday 6/27/91. Our Pro-choice friend Thurgood Marshall has resigned from the Supreme Court. Roe will be defeated with the first challenge (Utah or Guam or Louisiana). Marshall was one of three staunch Roe supporters left on the Court. Souter replaced Brennan and no doubt Bush will replace Marshall with another anti-choice justice.

White, Rehnquist, O'Connor, Scalia, and Souter could turn Roe around right now. That's why each election is so critical now, even at the local level where abortion may not seem an issue. People use local offices as stepping stones to higher office and why would you want someone to represent you at the local level who thinks that women should be forced to bear children against their will.

The loss of Roe should tap some voter anger. We do remember the back alley abortions of our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and friends.

Be Sure You Are Registered To VOTE!!!

CALENDAR

••Next Meeting: August 7th at 7:30 pm at the YWCA

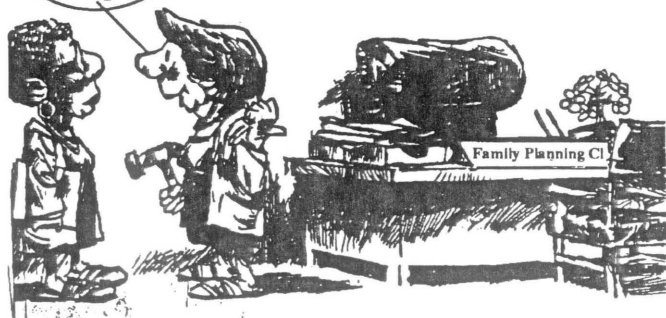
•• New Meeting Date: Starting September 10th Meetings will be on the 2nd Tuesday
ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 5 (VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!)

ATTENTION PATIENTS:

The Supreme Court has prohibited us from informing you that having an **ABORTION IS A LEGAL ALTERNATIVE**, or advising you that should you consider pregnancy termination, you should be sure to **CONSULT A PHYSICIAN.**

So don't ask.
Thank you.

"I think I've figured out a way around the Supreme Court ruling"



MEMBER FORM

Please make checks payable to:
Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385
Cortland, NY 13045

I agree to vote for candidates that are
Pro-Choice.

Name _____

Signature _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$10.00 for mailings _____

Other Contributions _____

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

Sept. - Oct. 1991 --- Vol. 2, Number 7

SHE'S WONDERFUL! SHE'S EXCITING!

IT'S HER WORLD PREMIERE OF HER ORIGINALLY COMPOSED CHOICE SONG—COMPOSED WITH
OUR LOCAL GROUP AS INSPIRATION!

SHE'S COLLEEN KATTAU!

COME LISTEN TO COLLEEN AND HER SONG

SEPTEMBER 11 AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE YWCA.

PLEASE SPEAK TO US NOW!

Back in July we had the pleasure of having Judy Dogerty, Westchester Coalition for Choice, visit us. What she came to speak about was the importance of Voter ID and organizing around the issue of Pro-Choice. She was energetic, vivacious and dedicated to the issue of Pro-Choice Voter ID. She explained with poignant realism and sometimes witty humor the power Westchester's Coalition obtained by creating such an intricate and manageable network for obtaining, coding, disseminating and politicizing information that was Pro-Choice related. She also illustrated what a small number of people could do in just a short time if they pooled their energies and creativity.

All of what the Westchester group did to be taken seriously politically is thoroughly documented in the manual we purchased on the Voter ID Project. Judy also helped to simplify this process by discussing a prioritized list of what is needed first to get such a project activated in Cortland.

These things that will follow are things that are already in existence but we have not yet pulled in the resources. If you can help in any way with one, two or more of these items PLEASE SPEAK TO US NOW!!! Office space, an answering service, 501C Status, we need to create two PACS Federal and State, we need to find phone banks and look at targeting districts and races. These are perhaps easily found things so if you know of something that could help let us know.

We also need money, that's right one more cause looking for money to keep going or to expand. But think about the impact if we were not here and informing people about what is going on in the world around the Pro-Choice issue. What the Anti-choice people do is organize, donate hours, materials and lots of money. They are not letting up. To see this proof we need only look to Wichita, Kansas where Randall Terry and his Operation Rescue Crew is assembling thousands of people to demonstrate and picket abortion clinics and yes get arrested in the name of STOPPING ABORTIONS and SAVING LIVES. If this is not enough to get you motivated into action, then think about this, Supreme Court Judge Thourogood Marshall has re-

signed and Bush is looking at replacing him with someone who will not be "Kinder and Gentler" to Pro-Choice. Thus, the climate exists for Roe v. Wade to be overturned. Wake up! We cannot count on the Supreme Court to protect reproductive choice, so we must focus on local and state politicians.

Some may be saying, "I don't have time to get involved" or "I can't give money to help." No problem. No time, give us money to pay for someone to work on the phones to identify voters. No money, work three nights on the phones and we pay you. If you work one or two nights no pay. We need to start small and focused with the election project. We are looking at vacant seats in legislative races, we are examining close races, and targeting Pro-Choice candidates and we are looking for clear Pro/Anti Choice Races.

What we are talking about is single issue politics. Not so nice and well received by many people, but on this issue if we compromise or move our position closer to the Anti-Choice side we will have lost ground that will be impossible to regain. Example of a compromise that will lessen the existence of Reproductive choice: If there are two candidates, one who is Anti-Choice and the other who is Anti-Medicaid Abortion Funding, but other wise Pro-Choice some would willingly go for the Anti-Medicaid Politician because she/he was basically Pro-Choice. This however, is what the Anti-Choice factions want, is a moving toward their side in terms of being willing to sacrifice some forms of Abortions for some women. Reality says however, that NO ONE who thinks that women should be forced to bear children against their will should run for office.

There should be no Government intrusion into the lives of women and their reproductive choices. Women's sexual behavior has been controlled all over the world thru out history (clitorectomies, chastity belts and by laws). And when politicians compromise on the issue of reproductive freedom and access they do so with the lives of the young and the poor and the rural women. Examine the inconsistency of allowing abortions in the case of rape or incest. In this case the fetus becomes a non-person when the woman is raped, but is a person when the woman is not raped because

she might have enjoyed the sexual encounter. See any logic in this thinking?

Our work ahead of us will be challenging and long and difficult, but we are talking about guaranteeing safe legal access to abortions for women who do not want to be pregnant. The costs may be great in doing such organizing, but what is the cost of a woman's life?

DON'T GET MAD! GET ORGANIZED!

The 1980's have seen the right wingers:

- oppose the right to choose abortion
- oppose ERA
- oppose equal pay for equal work
- oppose child care
- oppose equity in pensions
- etc.

The 1992 election needs to unite us in electing progressive candidates

SPEAKERS BANNED FROM GROTON SCHOOL

A mediated settlement between 8 families and the Groton Board of Education allowed Planned Parenthood of Tompkins County and the Jacobus Center to be present at the 1991 Awareness Days but banned these 2 agencies from next year's presentation.

STD's, relationships and AIDS were the topics presented this year. Parents who objected to the presence of these agencies were allowed to sit in during these student workshops this year but they were not to speak.

The Groton Catholic Church bulletin had a message to "pray on your rosary to keep Planned Parenthood out of the school."

WHY WORRY?

Here's a couple of reasons why:

1. George Bush says that making abortion illegal is "a cause that must be won."
2. He enthusiastically vetoed Medicaid funding for abortions for victims of rape and incest.
3. The Supreme Court balance has shifted and recent decisions vastly restrict abortions for the young and the poor.
4. Anti-abortion laws have passed in Pennsylvania, Guam and Utah all crafted to be the ultimate blow to a slowly eroding Roe v. Wade.

ON ABORTION IN BRAZIL

While abortion is illegal in every Latin American country with the exception of Cuba, it is still widely practiced throughout the region. Abortion is virtually illegal in

Brazil (although technically possible in the case of rape or danger to the mother's health), yet women there have abortions at a rate equal to or greater than that of women in the United States. According to the Alan Buttmacher Institute, each year Brazil records about four million abortions. Yet health officials in Rio de Janeiro could only recall two abortions being performed legally in the past year in that city.

While middle class women have access to "unofficial" clinics where abortions on the average cost around \$150 (or, roughly double the nation's minimum monthly salary), poor women are not so lucky. These women turn to "traditional" means of abortions with knitting needles, coat hangers or sticks. Even with under-reporting, at least 400,000 women enter hospitals each year in Brazil because of complication resulting from attempted abortions, and of these hundreds do not survive. In one study of women recovering from abortion complications in Brazil, it was found that about 40 percent were trying to use some form of contraception (mainly the pill) when they became pregnant. Most women who can afford contraception receive little or no instructions on how to use it. When measured in terms of per capita income, condoms are six times as expensive as in the United States, and are therefore out of reach for poor families struggling just to put food on the table.

"The poor woman is alone, and she sees herself as without a way to avoid pregnancy," observed the director of one of Brazil's state hospitals that services one of its many shantytowns. "When she gets pregnant, she resorts to what she sees as the easiest way to solve her problem: abortion."

Source: James Brooks, "Brazil Abortions: In Name Only", *The New York Times*, Sunday, July 21, 1991.

ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES BOYCOTTED BY RIGHT TO LIFE

Nuprin	Exedrin	Behold
Betty Crocker	Jeno's Products	Endust
Bisquick	Ore-Ida Potatoes	4-Way Nasal Spray
General Mills	Totino's Pizza	Comtrex
Cheerios	Van De Kamp's	Congesprin
Fiber 1	Haagen Dezs	Ammens Powder
Lucky Charms	Yoplait	Ban Deodorant
Nature Valley	Heinz Products	Wheaties
Total	Starkist	Clairol Products
Body on Tap	Renuzit	Ultress
Green Giant	Vanish Cleaner	Vitalis
Ocedar	Datril	Windex
Bufferin	Gorton's Fish Products	Weight Watcher's
Scott Products	American Express	Chase Manhattan
Drano	Diner's lub	Bloomingdale's
Mervyns	Target	Fireman's Fund
Prudential	Xerox	Burger King
Bennigan's	Red Lobster	Steak and Ale
Shearson-Lehman Hutton		
CHARITIES: March of Dimes, United Way		

SUPPORT THEM - Write and tell them thanks for being Pro-Choice

TITLE X - QUOTABLE QUOTES

We need to make population and family planning household words. We need to take the sensationalism out of this topic so that it can no longer be used by militants who have no real knowledge of the voluntary nature of the program but, rather, are using it as a political stepping stone. If family planning is anything, it is a public health matter.

Rep. George Bush, 1969

Most important is that this legislation be recognized as... a health-care service mechanism and not a population control mechanism.

Rep. George Bush, 1970

AS we amended the Social Security Act in 1967, I was impressed by the sensible approach of Alan Guttmacher, the obstetrician who served as president of Planned Parenthood. It was ridiculous, he told the committee, to blame mothers on welfare for having too many children when the clinics and hospitals they used were absolutely prohibited from saying a word about birth control. So we took the lead in Congress in providing money and urging-in fact requiring-that in the United States family planning services be available for every woman, not just the private patient with her own gynecologist.

George Bush (Foreword to World Population Crisis by Phyllis Plotrow), 1973

U.S. HOUSE OKs OVERSEAS MILITARY ABORTIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. House of Representatives has added a provision to the Defense Department appropriations bill that would permit women who are in the military services or are dependents of military personnel stationed in other countries to obtain abortions at their own expense in military health facilities. President Bush had already said that he would veto the bill because he disagrees with some of its provisions on military spending.

The House voted 220-206 to permit abortions for women in the military, thus reversing its vote on the same issue last year. The amendment was sponsored by Rep. Les AuCoin (D-Ore.), who also sponsored similar amendments in previous years.

Many women in the military are stationed in countries that ban abortion and thus risk dangerous illegal abortion or huge expenses to travel to another country if they cannot obtain abortions at military facilities.

—info from Washington Post, 5/23

COURT SAYS ANTIS AREN'T IN RACKET

CHICAGO — A federal district court judge has dismissed a suit brought by the National Organization for Women (N.O.W.) that tried to obtain an injunction against the nationwide attempts by anti-abortionists to block access to abortion clinics. N.O.W. maintained that the anti-abortionists violated federal anti-racketeering and anti-trust laws because their threats, blockades, trespassing, and damages to clinics amounted to extortion.

However, Judge James Holderman said that the anti-abortionists are not violating anti-trust laws because they are engaged in political rather than commercial activities. Trying to harm the clinics economically is "incidental" to the groups' main aim, which is to promote legislation banning abortion, the judge said.

Earlier, a federal appellate court in Philadelphia had ruled that anti-abortionists do violate anti-racketeering laws. In 1989, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review the decision in that case.

N.O.W. intends to appeal Judge Holderman's decision to a federal appeals court.

—info from Washington Post, 6/1

LOUISIANA... LAWMAKERS HIT ABORTION AGAIN

In some states, lawmakers have voted for anti-abortion bills.

The Louisiana legislature has done it again. Both houses have approved a bill that would ban abortion except in cases of rape and incest and to save the woman's life. The bill has been sent to Gov. Buddy Roemer (D), who vetoed anti-abortion bills last year. In 1990, Roemer first vetoed that bill simply banned abortion and said that he would sign a bill if it included exemptions for rape, incest, and danger to a woman's life, but then when such a bill was passed vetoed it because it did not include an exemption for health problems for the woman. This year, Roemer asked the legislature to extend the time period required for reporting a rape and to allow an exception in the case of a severely disabled fetus, but the lawmakers did not comply.

The bill is, of course, a challenge to the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision permitting abortions. Utah and Guam already have passed legislation that violate the Roe decision and thus could lead to another court test.

The Alabama House has approved a bill that would ban abortion except in cases of rape or incest, or danger to the woman's life. The bill now goes to the Senate.

**MOVED? Be sure you are
registered to VOTE.**

PARENTAL CONSENT

The Nebraska legislature has passed and Gov. Ben Nelson (D) has signed a bill that requires notification of one parent or a court order for a young woman under age 18 who is seeking an abortion. An exception is provided if the young woman is an incest survivor. Nebraska lawmakers had rejected similar bills in previous years.

The Illinois House has rejected a bill that would have restricted abortion of a fetus after five and a half months. The bill would have suggested that such a fetus could be "viable" and would have barred abortion except to save the woman's life or prevent impairment of her major bodily functions. The bill, which was only narrowly defeated, could be considered again later this year.

On the good side, the New Hampshire Senate has joined the House in inviting the manufacturers of RU 486, the abortion pill, to test the drug in their state. The bill is intended as pressure on the federal government to permit testing.

EROSIONS

In Maryland, the Vote Know Coalition, an anti-abortion group, has handed in a large number of signatures on petitions to prevent a fairly pro-abortion rights law from going into effect. The law, which was approved by the legislature earlier this year, would specify that women have the right to abortion (in case Roe is overturned) but also enacts a parental notification requirement for young women, with an exception if the doctor decides it is in the young woman's best interest not to tell. If the anti-abortionists have gathered enough signatures, they could force a vote on the issue on the November 1992 statewide ballot.

West Virginia's Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case challenging state funding of abortions for poor women. The State Department of Health and Human Services is appealing a decision by Kanawha County Judge Patrick Casey banning the use of state money for abortions on the grounds that federal money cannot be used for abortions; the department says that it was not using federal money for that purpose.

Be Sure You Are Registered To VOTE!!!

CALENDAR

••Next Meeting: September 11th at 7:30 pm at the YWCA (Note Change)

•• Last Day to Register to Vote October 7th

ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 5 (VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!)

Women's Lives Depend on it!!!



MEMBER FORM

Please make checks payable to:
Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385
Cortland, NY 13045

I agree to vote for candidates that are
Pro-Choice.

Name _____

Signature _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$10.00 for mailings _____

Other Contributions _____

QUESTION FROM THE EDITOR???

Who is interested in working on the Voter ID Project???

Call Andrea or Tracey at 753-8510

Choice

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Nov. - Dec. 1991 --- Vol. 2, Number 8



THIS IS OUR 2nd ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

ANGRY?

Are you Angry yet? Do what Randal Terry does.
GET ORGANIZED, get others organized and be active.

Suggestions:

1. Subscribe early. January is our annual renewal month for this newsletter. Send \$10-\$20 now for the Local Coalition efforts.
Get a free issue if you subscribe right now.
2. Keep the pressure on. Write your Representative regarding Clarence Thomas.
3. Dump D'Amato
4. Join our Voter ID Project.

FEMINISTS DEBATE ABORTION

On October 9th Dr. Karla Alwes, English Professor at SUNY Cortland and Dr. Sidney Callahan, Professor of Psychology at Mercy College debated from a feminist viewpoint about abortion.

Both women and numerous supporters from either the Pro-Choice or Pro-Life side carried in their hearts and minds their views about abortion. Karla, a Pro-Choice feminist was poignant, humorous and very deliberate in her analysis of the abortion issue. One of her main premises was that the debate really was not about abortion, but rather about the control of women's bodies. She cited numerous instances from history in which there have been, and still are controls over women's bodies.

Sidney on the other hand, focused most directly on the morality of abortion and the need for supporting the life of the "pre" born. Sidney's delivery was striking to some, but still showed the slight inconsistencies of some Right to Life arguments. For instance, she was willing to allow abortions in some cases (fetus born dying, endangerment and

health of mother and cases of rape and incest). But at the same time she condemned abortion as being morally wrong, and felt that morals should be regulated.

Karla and Sidney both argued on a higher level of rationale. They supported the positions both with facts and passion. Debates have now risen to a new high where women can state their views, differ and still come out with respect.

RENEWAL! RENEWAL! RENEWAL!

January is Annual Renewal Month and also the 19th Anniversary of Roe vs Wade. Avoid the Holiday Rush—Subscribe early!

WOMEN'S ISSUES ELECTION POLL STIRS CONTROVERSY

The Women's Coalition of Cortland (AAUW, League of Women Voters, SUNY Women's Studies, YWCA and ZONTA) did what they have done every election year since 1986—sent a survey to candidates soliciting their views on day care, equal pay, abortion, etc. The results are then printed in a non-partisan manner in the Cortland Standard as a voter's guide.

This year was the first survey of local candidates with the response from a few being strong and severe. One person claimed it was illegal to take such a guide to the polls, others responded negatively to the YWCA because their address is listed on the stationery. Another took the survey to the Cortland Standard as an exposé saying that they felt threatened by the statement in the cover letter that "failure to complete the form would be so noted."

Apparently women's issues are important and some candidates don't want to be on record about them. See the enclosed results from the Cortland Standard. On a more

positive note, some people have responded to the survey and included financial contributions to support issues of importance.

Even though some candidates do not wish to be on record concerning issues related to our lives some are willing to cross the line and listen to the people.

POLLS SHOW PUBLIC REJECTS GAG RULE

Public opposition to the *Rust* decision upholding the TitleX Gag Rule is at the highest level ever for any court ruling.

1991 Harris Poll

- 92% of those surveyed believe "a doctor should tell a woman exactly the same information if she comes to a private office or a public clinic."
- 69% view the Gag Rule as an issue of censorship/government interference.
- 85% see it as a threat to *Roe v. Wade*
- 17% of those who opposed the decision would vote against a candidate with whom they otherwise agreed if the candidate favored the Gag Rule--- compared with 7% on the opposing side.

1991 Wall Street Journal Poll

- 64% of registered voters queried oppose the *Rust* decision.

1988 Gallup Poll

- 66% of those surveyed disapproved of the Reagan Administration regulations (upheld 3 years later by *Rust*) to withhold federal funds from family planning clinics which provide abortion counseling.

COLLEEN'S CHOICE SONG

Colleen Kattau has written a beautiful Pro-Choice song which she performed to rave reviews at the last Pro-Choice meeting. Thanks Colleen, your song was as lovely as your voice. Remember Colleen as a really fine entertainer for upcoming events.

THE NEED FOR THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT

The Bush administration was extremely determined and skillful in their Thomas public relations charade. Thomas has a clear record of attacking the right to choose and has even criticized the right to privacy as an invented right.

Between "throw away lines" and confirmation conversions, it was difficult to assess exactly what Judge Thomas thinks. But we certainly know that he is no friend of Choice.

Many knowledgeable folks predicted that *Roe* was lost even before Thurgood Marshall resigned. Speculation about the impending challenges to *Roe* (Guam, Pennsylvania, and Louisiana) are dire. Will *Roe* be stripped in a piecemeal manner thus diffusing a monumental backlash? Or will it be overturned completely?

Contrary to current thinking, most states will probably not move to legalize abortion. It is quite critical that Congress now serves as a balance to a very conservative Supreme Court. (See Court Composition below) The Freedom of Choice Act now becomes a very important federal assurance of uniform accessibility of abortion for all women.

HOW THE COURT STANDS NOW!

CONFIRMING THOMAS

Appointments of conservative justices changed the liberal Warren court of the 1960's into the conservative Rehnquist court of today. A look at the court in 10-year intervals with widely held assessments of who's liberal, conservative or moderate: Conservative= ☐ Liberal/Moderate= ☐

'62	Earl Warren	Hugo Black	Arthur Goldberg	William Douglas	William Brennan	Charles Whittaker	Potter Stewart	John Harlan	Tom Clark
'72	Warren Burger	Lewis Powell	Harry Blackmun	William Douglas	William Brennan	Byron White	Potter Stewart	William Rehnquist	Thurgood Marshall
'82	Warren Burger	Lewis Powell	Harry Blackmun	John P. Stevens	William Brennan	Byron White	Sandra O'Connor	William Rehnquist	Thurgood Marshall
'92	William Rehnquist age: 67 seated 1972*	Anthony Kennedy Age: 55 seated 1988	Harry Blackmun Age: 82 seated 1970	John P. Stevens Age: 71 seated 1975	David Souter Age: 52 seated 1989	Byron White Age: 74 seated 1962	Sandra O'Connor Age: 61 seated 1981	Antonin Scalia Age: 55 seated 1986	Clarence Thomas Age: 43 seated 1991

*Became Chief Justice: 1986 SOURCE: "JUSTICES & PRESIDENTS," by Henry J. Abraham

ANTI-CHOICE?

Tired of getting this Newsletter?

Call 696-4634 or 753-8510 and leave a message with your name so that we may remove you from the mailing list.

ABORTION ON N.Y.S. REGENTS EXAM

The June 1991 11th grades Social Studies exam had the following question:

Since 1960, various areas of concern have aroused some Americans to action. Some areas are listed below:

- Environment
- Abortion
- Substance Abuse
- Health Care
- Crime

Choose 3 and describe the problems, show how a public or private group of Americans has taken action to deal with the problem and discuss the extent to which the action has had an impact on the problem. (15 credits)

ATTEMPT TO BAN CONTROVERSIAL SPEAKERS AT GROTON SCHOOL

Lynne Marie Kohm, Esquire and Patricia Fadel have spearheaded an attempt to keep Planned Parenthood and Cortland County Health Department speakers out of Groton classrooms because of their concerns regarding the topic of abortion. This controversy was sparked by a Student Awareness Day, May 1991, when the topics presented by these 2 speakers were "relationships" and "STD's." (The Cortland County Health Department diagnoses 3 cases of Chlamydia a week and treats 3 cases of venereal warts a day. These diseases, respectively, are the leading causes of infertility and cervical cancer). In light of the article above, it appears that our Regents expect our children to have heard the "A" word.

EXCERPT FROM CONSCIENCE A NEWS JOURNAL OF PRO-CHOICE CATHOLIC OPINION July/Aug, 1991

"The nation's Catholic bishops did Pro-choice Catholics a favor when they signed a multi-million-dollar contract with . . . public relations firm Hill and Knowlton." Scandalized by this misappropriation of church funds, rank-and-file Catholics who would prefer to see such monies go into sex education and birth control got a glimpse of how their bishops operate. . . . these P.R. people have urged the bishops to become feminist just like us (Catholics for Choice), except with an anti-choice slant.

THOMAS ON THE COURT

It strains logic to think that Thomas has no opinion on Roe vs Wade as he reported in the confirmation hearings. He's probably the only lawyer in the country who can claim that he has had no discussions of abortion for the past 18 years. Your editors think that there is a tremendous credibility flaw here. It is a sad day in America when silence on substantive issues assures victory. The natural law theory would ban all abortions, not just send the decision back to the states. Or was that a throw away line, Judge? We won't even discuss sexual harassment or the Senate's indignation with sexual discussions. The writing is painfully clear—folks we are in for the "kinder, gentler 90's"—full speed ahead!

A QUOTE TO PONDER

"A state constitutional right to privacy in New York is cold comfort to a girl in Louisiana who doesn't have busfare."

Anna Quindlen

BUFFALO VOTER ID PROJECT SUCCESSES

Buffalo is not necessarily a hotbed of radicalism, but the Buffalo Pro-Choice Voter phone survey found that 60-75% of the women voters were Pro-Choice.

Also Operation Rescue's threat of massive blockades in Buffalo on Sept. 27 & 28 fizzled with only 30 protestors.



E.P. Powell

MOVED? Be sure you are registered to VOTE.

EDITOR's NOTES

As we celebrate the second year of Choice - our newsletter, it is time to do some reflective thinking. A great deal has happened in just two short years with the future of Choice not looking so bright. We now reach over 500 friends (and sometimes foes). We have seen "gag rules" imposed, Abortions Outlawed in some states, and made virtually impossible in others.

We are traveling on shaky and uncertain ground now and we must focus our energies, talents and monies toward re-securing reproductive choices for all women.

Legalized, Safe Abortions are becoming more and more restricted and the future is dismal as to the sanctity and endurance of Roe vs Wade.

Are you scared yet? How about your daughters or sisters? If not, why not? When will we begin to really take action to defend the freedom of choice? Lets be pro-active, not reactive.

Stay with us through the next rough year and see what's ahead and what you can do to keep legalized abortion safe and accessible for all women who need the choice.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"When the feminist movement burst forth a couple of decades ago, the goal was not the join `em—and certainly not to beat `em—but to improve an imperfect world."

Barbara Ehrenreich

January

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

WE NEED YOUR \$10 TO KEEP YOU INFORMED IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES FOR CHOICE. THIS WILL BE A TOUGH YEAR FOR ROE V. WADE.

Election Day November 5th---VOTE VOTE VOTE!!!

CALENDAR

- November 13th 7:30pm Pro-Choice Meeting at the YWCA
- December 11th 6:30 pm Pro-Choice Pot-Luck Holiday Party at the YWCA --- Bring table service and a dish to pass --- look forward to some excellent dining.

I SUPPORT *ROE V. WADE* AND WILL CROSS PARTY LINES TO ELECT A PRO-CHOICE CANDIDATE.

SIGNATURE _____

NAME(please print) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Renewal Contribution

\$10 \$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 \$More

MEMBER FORM

Please make checks payable to:
Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385
Cortland, NY 13045

I agree to vote for candidates that are
Pro-Choice.

Name _____

Signature _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$10.00 for mailings _____

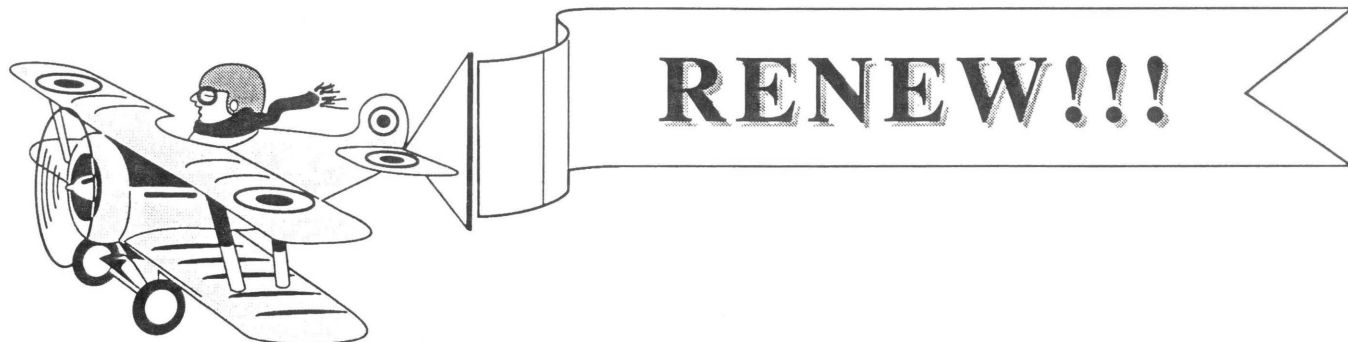
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January is Annual Renewal Month

While paying those numerous holiday bills don't forget to renew your Coalition for Choice Membership

Your contributions count now more than ever!

R.T.Lers Form Human Cross on Main Street.

Two hundred Right to Life Picketers each holding a sign "Abortion Kills Babies" occupied the four corners of Main St. and Groton Ave. on Sunday November 24th. This is the largest demonstration ever in Cortland and it had excellent media coverage.

Will Jan. 22, 1992 be the last anniversary of Roe vs. Wade??

Turn these negatives into cash for Pro-Choice Action.

Join our pledge-a-picket campaign in this critical election year. We can no longer depend on the Supreme Court to uphold women's rights to abortion. The work must be done at the local level! We must put Pro-Choice people into office.

The Write Stuff

One letter to a representative is though to represent the opinions of at least 100 voters. Here is an idea to remind you to express your opinion to Washington or Albany on a REGULAR BASIS:

- 1) Buy a package of 50 postcards for \$9.50
- 2) Get a set of pre-addressed labels (Bush, Moynihan, Seward, etc.)

- 3) With each electric and gas bill, also mail a post card to an elected official.
- 4) Don't forget to thank them if they voted right.

Pledge-a-picket

- 200 Right to Life Demonstrators form Human Cross in Cortland on November 24, 1991
- 3000 Operation Rescue Arrests in Wichita's Summer Siege
- Clarence Thomas Confirmation
- Gag Rule Veto upheld by Supreme Court May 23
- Anti-Gag Rule Veto not overturned by Congress Nov. 19
- Guam, Louisiana, Utah, Pennsylvania Anti-Abortion laws pending before Supreme Court.



I Pledge \$ _____ for each person who pickets the OB-GYN Office at 6 Euclid for the occasion of the 19th anniversary of Roe vs Wade up to a maximum total gift of \$ _____. The usual number has been 75-100. The more they have, the more we earn.

Name Bob & Susan
Street Address _____
Phone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please return by January 15, 1992

I'm Not A Feminist But. . . .

Colorado Congresswoman, Pat Schroeder has a response for this statement paraphrased below:

If you're not a feminist then:

- Don't Vote
- Don't have a credit card in your name
- Don't buy a house
- Don't use birth control
- Don't have an abortion
- Don't use the rights that women have struggled and won for you.

We're Fighting Mad! — GAG RULE

Bush vetoed legislation that would have overturned the Gag Rule. The House failed by 12 votes to overturn that veto. The Bush camp is being pushed to the right because of the challenges from Pat Buchanan/David Duke so his veto was an attempt to appease those forces. The White House strategy has Republican members of Congress taking turns in sustaining Bush's vetoes of parental leave, unemployment insurance extensions, the gag rule, etc. They share the blame and ride on the president's popularity and incumbent status.

Remember that 276 members of the House voted with us on this issue and 156 against. Bush only needs one third of the House numbers! We need two thirds and we were only 12 short. Three of those 12 were new converts and their response was in reaction to Grass Roots lobbying efforts.

D'Amato for the first time voted against the Gag Rule in the Senate. Send him a thank-you postcard. Pro-Choice is a majority position and a politically winning issue and 1992 candidate D'Amato knows it.

Choice Bits and Not So Choice

Amherst N.Y. Republican officials tried to knock fellow Republican Penny Zeplovitz off the ballot because she had her nominating petition say that she was running for "council person" instead of "councilwoman." But she won that fight and the election and the Amherst town board now has 4 women and 3 men.

Great Big Thanks to those who recently donated to CCFC and got the jump on January, our annual signup/Renew/Pay up month. We're 500 Pro-Choice Families Strong and Growing!

From: US News and World Report

The Senate Judiciary Committee interrupted the Thomas hearings to approve Bush's 13 latest choices for lifetime judgeships. If Bush is re-elected it is likely that he

and Reagan will have appointed a staggering 85% of the 846 Federal Judges.

Among the 13 were Alaska's Andrew Kleinfeld, an anti-abortion crusader and Pennsylvania's Harvey Bartle, a longtime associate of Dick Thornburgh.

The Supreme Court has been deciding fewer than 150 cases a year as opposed to the 300,000 of the lower courts. The "swing towards conservatism is being measured in recent scholarship:

- The Reagan/Bush judges are one third as likely as Jimmy Carter's to side with someone alleging a civil-rights violation.
- They are twice as likely to side with the prosecution in criminal cases.
- The new judges throw out of court lawsuits by liberal activists such as public-interest groups or unions 78% of the time, compared to Carter's 46%.
- The Washington DC Appeals Court backs environmentalists' argument about half as often as Carter's appointees."

The Democrats on the Judiciary Committee have "merrily acceded to it." (the conservative trend in appointing judgeships).

Republican Strategic Straddle

In 1988 Lee Atwater suggested that the Republican party was a "big tent" in that it encompassed all views on abortion. Dan Quayle is proposing that the "tent" theory be incorporated into the 1992 platform preamble; this despite the anti-choice plank in the platform itself. This is a recognition of younger voters' more sexually liberal stances on abortion.

No Turning Back. . . .

In 1984 Barbara Ferro and Patricia Hussey were among 24 nuns who signed a full page advertisement in the New York Times with the headline, "A Diversity of Opinions Regarding Abortion Exists Among Committed Catholics." This began their four year struggle with the Vatican when they refused to publicly recant. These two former Sisters of Notre Dame spoke in Owego on October 26 to an enthusiastic and admiring audience.

Among their thought provoking comments were:

"On one hand these people (Anti-Choice) want all pregnancies to come to term, and on the other hand they do not want women to receive (Public) assistance for raising their own children if they are poor."

"Women are more than potting soil in containers for the fetus. Women can be trusted as moral decision makers."

“Have we ever heard of excommunication for rapists, child abusers or mass murderers? The only two reasons for excommunication in the Roman Catholic Church are one, if you try to and succeed in killing the Pope, and two, if someone procures an abortion.”

In running a shelter for the poor and homeless in West Virginia for over 10 years they have touched many lives and have themselves been touched by these people. Their fascinating book No Turning Back depicts their lives before, during, and after their long battle with the Vatican.

FPA's Election Analysis

On November 21, FPA held its annual Legislative Analysis Meeting in Albany. Cortland Coalition for Choice was represented by Tracey Messinger and Andrea Marciano.

The morning focused on the Gag Rule and the U.S. House's attempt to override President Bush's veto of the appropriations bill. The House is a majority of Pro-Choice people, but failed to reach the necessary two-thirds majority to override (276 to 156). There was a short fall of twelve.

Other issues discussed were how the state is dealing with the implementation of the Gag Rule and how it affects the Family Planning Clinics. The bugs are still being looked at but there is a lot of red tape to cut through.

On a more positive note, Senator Al D'Amato earlier in November voted with the Pro-Choice to try to override Bush's veto. Send him a thank-you! He has seen the voters waiting for him in 1992.

The afternoon was spent listening to a panel of women who were with the Voter ID Project in various counties (Westchester, Suffolk and the Buffalo area). There were many success stories with each dedication and focused work.

This is grass roots organizing at its best. The problem of single issue politics has not proven to be a stumbling stone; in fact it is a pivotal point in which local organizing can and does have a major political impact.

This is something we could do on a local level, but we need high energy and lots of support. More discussion and networking are also vital. If this is something you are interested in or would like more information about call Tracey at (315) 696-4634 or Andrea at 753-8510. **It Works!**

THE SUPREME COURT AND ABORTION

by Robert Spitzer

Leaving aside the hoopla surrounding the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, many are wondering what the addition of Justice Thomas will mean for the future of Roe v. Wade (1973).

The original two dissenters in the Roe case, William Rehnquist and Byron White, are still on the court. So is Harry Blackmun, who wrote the majority opinion in Roe. The only other firmly pro-Roe justice is John Paul Stevens. Lining up clearly against Roe, along with Rehnquist and White, are Antonin Scalia and probably Anthony Kennedy.

These four are clearly prepared to strike down Roe. Thus, the fate of Roe is in the hands of three other justices: Sandra Day O'Connor, David Souter, and Clarence Thomas. O'Connor has indicated dissatisfaction with Roe, but not to the point of overturning it outright. Souter has no discernible stand on the issue to date; what little we know about Thomas suggests that he's leaning against Roe.

There seem to be three possibilities: 1) the four anti-Roe justices will get a fifth vote from one of the three swing justices to strike it down outright (Thomas would seem most likely to provide the fifth vote, followed by Souter); 2) the O'Connor-Souter-Thomas group will seek to moderate the hard-liners, resulting in decisions that cut back on Roe, but do not throw it out entirely; or 3) the court will do its best to sidestep the issue for the near future by avoiding some cases and ruling as narrowly as possible on others. Of these three options, I consider 1) and 2) to be the most likely. Whether 1) or 2) occurs will depend on the depth of Thomas or Souter's anti-Roe sentiment, how easily they can be persuaded by Rehnquist, and the strength of their belief in the time-honored judicial value of stare decisis—that is, an unwillingness to routinely overrule past court precedent. If anything saves Roe, it may be this last consideration.

Choice Facts

1. In the 1990 election, half of all the governor races were affected by the abortion issue.
2. Only 36% of the national electorate voted in 1990.
3. Incumbents outspent challengers 13 to 1 in the 1990 Federal Senate races.

Why We Need To Vote

If we depended on Republicans David Duke would be Governor of Louisiana — 56% voted for him.

If we depended on whites, Duke would be Governor — 56% voted for him.

If we depended on White Protestants, again Duke would be Governor — 62% voted for him.

INCIDENCE OF ABORTION

- More than 50% of the pregnancies among American women are unintended — 1/2 of these are terminated by abortion.
- In 1988, there were 1.6 million abortions in the United States. From 1973 through 1988, more than 22 million legal abortions took place in the United States. Since 1967, when many states began liberalizing their abortion laws, almost 24 million legal abortions have been performed.
- Each year nearly 3 out of 100 women aged 15-44 have an abortion — 40% have had at least one previous abortion and 45% have had a previous birth.

• The abortion rate — the number of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 in 1975 was 22; in 1980, 29; in 1985, 28; and in 1988, 27.

• The United States has one of the higher abortion rates among developed countries; U.S. rates of abortion and unintended pregnancy are about 5 times those of the Netherlands.

Gail Schaffer speaks at college

Choice, economic equity, family matters, violence, ERA and political empowerment — these are women's concerns for the 1990s. But she cautioned we are seeing an escalation of zygote rights over women's rights.

It is too remote to think of women dying at the hands of back alley abortionists? Schaffer reminded us that 16-year old Becky Bell died in that way in Indiana in August 1989 because of the parental consent law. She said these laws don't generate family communication, they legislate fear into the back alleys.

Schaffer called on women to use their skills of negotiation, coalition building, nurturing and conflict resolution in the political and work arenas. Women should be holding more elected offices instead of having power concentrated in the hands of "the male and the pale."

Schaffer thinks that this is more a reality for the future because 50+% of the persons in law school are now women (due to the sex blind application process now in place).

Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!

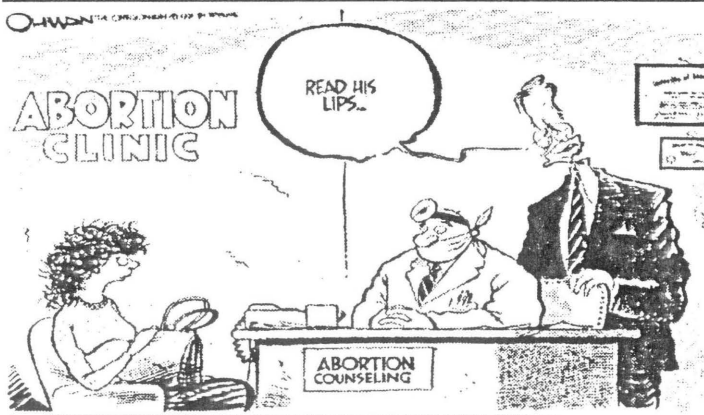
A warm heartfelt thanks to the contributors of this newsletter: Julia Minoia, Robert Spitzer, Kathy Smith, Andrea Marciano and Tracey Messinger.

Also a thank-you to Janet and Henry Steck for mailing out the newsletter.

Thank you all for your dedication and valuable time.

CALENDAR

- • January 8th 7:30pm Pro-Choice Meeting at the YWCA
- • January 22nd 19th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade
- • January 27-28th Family Planning Advocates of NYS Annual Legislative Conference - Albany
- • February 12th 7:30pm Pro-Choice Meeting at the YWCA



January

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

WE NEED YOUR \$10 TO KEEP YOU INFORMED IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES FOR CHOICE. THIS WILL BE A TOUGH YEAR FOR ROE V. WADE.

MEMBER FORM

Please make checks payable to:
Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385
Cortland, NY 13045

I agree to vote for candidates that are Pro-Choice.

Name _____

Signature _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$10.00 for mailings _____

Other Contributions _____

Choice

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

Mar. - Apr. 1992 --- Vol. 2, Number 10

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

WE'RE the MAJORITY, BUT...

These are sad times for reproductive freedom in this country. The constitutional right that affects the health, well-being and safety of millions of women is being seriously undermined.

July 3, 1989 - Supreme Court ruling on the Webster case dealt a devastating blow to all reproductive rights by severely restricting access to abortion in states that choose to do so.

The Court has since upheld restrictive teen abortion requirements, which encourage the government to interfere in the most private family matters.

Reagan/Bush "packed" the Supreme Court

May 1991 - Supreme Court by a vote of 5-4, upheld the "gag rule" in Rust v. Sullivan stating that family planning clinics which receive government funds are prohibited from discussing abortion with pregnant women or telling them where to get that information even if women ask for abortion information.

Justice Thurgood Marshall retired.

Clarence Thomas' confirmation completes the conservative shift and further threatens Roe v. Wade.

Summer 1991 - U.S. Justice Department joined the attack on reproductive rights by defending Operation Rescue's blockades and ruthless attack on Clinics.

January 21, 1992 - U.S. Supreme Court announced it will hear the S. Penn v. Casey case. This Pennsylvania Abortion Control Law requires:

- Spousal notification

- 24 hr. waiting period

- Parental consent

- Physicians can only provide information about abortion

- Fetal development material required to be given to women seeking abortions

- Only exception is "medical emergency" that threatens women's lives

Utah, Louisiana & Minnesota pass restrictive abortion laws.

Parental consent laws adopted in numerous states.

Clinic terrorism, breeches in patient confidentiality, and doctor's lives threatened all have contributed to fewer and fewer doctors offering abortion services.

SCARED YET?

We must unite and work harder than ever to assure Safe & Legal Abortion Services for All Women! Our lives and the lives of our sisters and daughters and friends are in jeopardy!

WHO WILL GO TO JAIL... WOMAN OR DOCTOR?

Robert Scheer's opinion piece in Playboy recently suggested that "Conservative politicians who exploit the abortion issue will never follow through on their rhetoric. To do so would mean never winning another national election." That's why George Bush doesn't come out and

say that any woman or doctor who participates in an abortion ought to be convicted of murder.

If the Court overturns Roe, should U.S. citizens be permitted to travel from one state to another to commit legally condoned murder?

Scheer suggest that conservatives should do what they are best at — remove government from the equation, declare abortion immoral (and not have any themselves.)

WHAT IS OPERATION RESCUE?

"Operation Rescue and its local affiliates have engaged in violent, unlawful and destructive activities . . . to deny women equal rights."

The NARAL has developed a citizens' action packet with sample letters and how-to information to help pro-choice residents counteract Operation Rescue's clinic blockades in their communities. To obtain one, call your local affiliate or the NARAL office at (202) 408-4600.

ATTORNEY GENERAL ABRAMS TO THE RESCUE

Abrams has announced that his office would go to federal court to oppose Operation Rescue's plans to disrupt access to reproductive care in Buffalo. The Attorney General hand delivered a letter to Buffalo Mayor Griffin (he invited Terry) demanding the Mayor to guarantee the civil rights of women. He has threatened Griffin with a federal lawsuit if he fails to do so.

RU 486

"Two hundred thousand women die in bungled abortions and RU 486 can save them." Eteinne - Emile Baulieu, creator of the French pill stated in an interview in Omni magazine (9/91). RU 486 was synthesized and its abortifacient properties accidentally discovered in 1980 by Roussel chemists. Baulieu went through years of lab testing and intense political jousting to get RU 486 to the market in 1988. Roussel abruptly took the drug off the assembly line because Roussel's parent company, a German pharmaceutical company called Hoechst, was associated with I. G. Farber, the manufacturer of gas used in Nazi concentration camps. Anti-abortion forces began comparing RU 486 to Farber's death camp gas. Baulieu pulled out all the stops to get the drug on the market. There were 65,000 women in France in 1991 who used RU 486.

CHOICE AT THE CROSSROADS

On January 27th and 28th Family Planning Advocates held their 15th Annual Legislative Conference in Albany. Two of CCFC's members attended.

Keynote speaker, Anna Quindlen spoke to an audience of about 1000 women and men - all of whom are Pro-Choice. The NY Times columnist said "We have oversimplified this issue. Some Opponents. . . have the sneaking suspicion we think abortion is something like an appendectomy. We know full well it's not, but sometimes refuse to acknowledge the great well of ambivalence that dwells in the hearts of so many."

Quindlen, feels it is now time for us to "make the political personal." Women who had safe, legal abortions and doctors who performed them need to go public and explain why they did what they did so that people can identify with them and their circumstances. "People have to bear witness." The AMA needs to come out and support safe, legal abortion instead of waiting until after women begin dying once more from back alley abortions.

Others who spoke at this conference included NYS Attorney General Robert Abrams, who has promised to force Mayor Griffin to uphold the law in Buffalo this spring when Randy Terry and his Operation Rescue terrorists have vowed to blockade clinics and break laws/

And finally, the two day event was wrapped up with a very powerful panel moderated by Rabbi Balfour Brickner. Panelists included Frances Kissling, Pres., Catholics for Free Choice, Ann Baker, Pres., The 80% Majority, and Deanna Duby, Esq., Deputy Legal Director, People for the American Way.

These women were fiery and passionate. All brought various perspectives to the dialog and focused mostly on what is the possible outcome if Roe v. Wade is lost. Most striking were the descriptions by Ms. Baker of the women she had seen die from illegal and/or self-induced abortions pre-Roe.

Ms. Duby strongly felt Roe would be lost this spring either entirely or else via massive restrictions. Nonetheless, the picture is not bright for the future of women's reproductive safety and rights.

1992 — A RARE ELECTION YEAR

1. Redistricting will have an impact by creating seats with no incumbents or having incumbents face each other.

2. Congress may have as many as 100 Congressional races with no incumbents (4X's the usual). This is due to "ethics" reforms. Congress members can no longer keep their war chest of unused campaign money when retiring after 1992.

3. To pass the Freedom of Choice Act (codifying Roe v. Wade) we need to win big in Congress. Gag rule veto overturn was lost by only 12 votes. 1992 is an important year.

ANNOUNCEMENT!!! REGISTER TO VOTE!!!

If you've moved or haven't voted in 4 years, check with the Elections Office — 60 Central Ave.

**YOUR VOTE COUNTS NOW —
MORE THAN EVER!!!**

APRIL 5TH MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

There will be a nationwide demonstration in Washington, D.C. on April 5th. The focus is on passage of the Freedom of Choice Act which, if passed, would codify the principles of Roe v. Wade. This action is especially important as we face the imminent demise of Roe.

Show your support by attending this major event. CCFC has a bus just waiting to be filled. Tickets are \$35. If you can't go - sponsor a student to go. For more information contact Tracey 753-9651 or (315) 696-4634.

*Reservations are needed by March 20th.
Act now while space is available.*

ANTI-CHOICE PROPAGANDA LEFT AT THE LOCAL CLINIC

The Jacobus Center for Reproductive Health has been receiving anti-choice literature. These materials are being mysteriously left in the waiting room by invisible people.

We are not alone — materials depicting fetal parts, clinic blockades and other misinformation is being left in clinics across the country.

UP COMING EVENT

A Legislative Brunch is being planned for September. More information will be coming soon about this important event. Remember, this is a very important election year with both President Bush and Senator Al D'Amato up for re-election.

INTERESTED IN THE VOTER ID PROJECT?

Have some Extra Time? Your Help is Needed.
Call Andrea 753-8510

RANDY TERRY IN BUFFALO APRIL 20 - MAY 16

Members of CCFC have expressed concerns with the Wichita-type action proposed for Buffalo this spring. We await requests for assistance from the Choice group there. Anyone interested in providing assistance call Andrea at 753-8510.

PERSONAL STATEMENT FROM NARAL DIRECTOR KULE MICHELMAN

With Clarence Thomas joining the Supreme Court, the Pennsylvania case on its way to the Supreme Court and cases from Guam, Utah and Louisiana in the judicial pipeline, America is in danger of going back to the days when

medically safe abortion was a function of arbitrary factors like geography, financial status, charity and chance. Prior to Roe, I was one of the millions of women who suffered the shame, degradation and humiliation of being deprived of my right to make one of the most important decisions of my life. Because our children and grandchildren are in danger of facing the same kind of trauma that I endured, I decided to share my personal experience with the Senate Judicial Committee this summer.

Like most women, I never expected to need an abortion. But, before Roe, I faced the trauma of a crisis pregnancy. I was raised Catholic and, as a young woman, I had three wonderful daughters in three years. But in 1970, my husband suddenly announced that he was leaving me and the children.

I was devastated. Without money, a job or a car, I was even unable to get a charge account at the local five and dime. I was also very ill at the time. My self-esteem was destroyed, my entire world was shattered, and my family was forced onto welfare.

Almost immediately after my husband left me, I discovered that I was pregnant. With three children under age six, I alone had to meet their every need — financial, emotional and physical. The very survival of my family was at stake.

Because abortion largely was illegal, I had to struggle with this decision alone. Deciding whether or not to have an abortion was one of the most difficult and complex decisions of my life. It challenged every religious, moral, ethical and philosophical belief I had. I looked into the eyes of my three daughters and made what I think was one of the most moral decisions I have ever made.

But, in 1970 the government would not allow me to make this decision for myself. I was forced to appear before a hospital-appointed panel of four men. These complete strangers cross-examined me about the most intimate and personal details of my life. It was humiliating. I was an adult woman, a mother of three, and yet I had to win their permission to make a decision about my family, my life, my future.

Finally, they granted me their permission. I was admitted to the hospital. Yet as I awaited the procedure, I was told that they had forgotten one more legal requirement..

I would not be able to have an abortion without written permission from the man who had just deserted me and my children. I literally had to leave the hospital and find the man who had rejected me. It was a degrading, dehumanizing experience — an assault to my integrity, my dignity, and my very sense of self.

At all times during this process I carried with me the name and phone number of an illegal abortionist. If at any juncture I was thwarted in my attempt to have a hospital abortion, I was prepared to break the law and risk my life because my family's survival depended on it.

We cannot allow our opponents to call choice a single issue. The right to choose is absolutely fundamental:

Fundamental to our dignity, to our power to shape our own lives, to our ability to act in the best interests of our families. No issue has a greater impact on the lives and futures of Americans.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH an Autobiography by Margaret Sanger

Margaret Sanger asking German gynecologist in 1920 why medicine relied on abortion rather than relatively safer contraceptives. He answered, "We will never give over the control of our numbers to the women themselves. What, let them control the future of the human race? With abortion it is in our hands; we make the decisions, and they must come to us."

LATEST NY STATE ABORTION STATS Induced Abortions recorded in NYS 1987-1989, a publication of the State Health Dept.

One third of all pregnancies ended in abortion between 1987-1989 in NYS. In 1989, 33 of every 1000 women 15-44 years old had an abortion. Consider that number over the 30 years of a woman's reproductive life.

The profile of who got an abortion in 1989 follows:
Median age 24
55% white
85% unmarried
53% had previous birth
2.6% have abortion at 20+ weeks
21.4% are teens (decrease of 4%)
150,000 abortions done
423 had complications

CALENDER OF EVENTS

MARCH 6 - Pa. Case legal briefs due before the Supreme Court.

MARCH 8 - International Women's Day

MARCH 11 - Choice Meeting - 7:30pm at the YWCA

APRIL 5 - NOW/NARAL March for Women's Lives - Washington, D.C. (we do have a bus - contact Tracey at 753-9651 or [315] 696-4634

APRIL 8 - Choice Meeting - 7:30pm at the YWCA

APRIL 20-27 - Pa. case argues before the Supreme Court

JUNE 15-30 - Pa. case decision announced

HUGE DROP IN CORTLAND ABORTIONS Induced Abortions recorded in NYS 1987-1989

Description	1987	1988	1989
Abortions done in Cortland on Cortland residents	149	136	86
Abortions done outside the county on county residents	122	111	160
% performed out of county	50	51	72

The dramatic drop may relate to the change in the Medicaid policy of the local OBGyn office.

CHOICE BITS

By 1989 16 million women in America had abortions. At these current rates, nearly half of all the women of reproductive age will have had an abortion by age 45.

SPECIAL THANKS!!!

Julia Minoia for getting this mailing out, Bill Russell for labels, and Tracey & Andrea for their hard work on the newsletter. **THANKS EVERYONE!**

**YOU MIGHT IMAGINE YOU'RE NOT MISSED.
BUT YOU ARE!**

MEMBER FORM

Please make checks payable to:
Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385
Cortland, NY 13045

I agree to vote for candidates that are
Pro-Choice.

Name _____

Signature _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$10.00 for mailings _____

Other Contributions _____

Choice

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

May - June 1992 --- Vol. 2, Number 11

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

MAY 5th is City School Board Election Day

See page 4

MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES -- APRIL 5th

Washington, D.C. was the site of the largest civil rights march in history. On April 5th some 750,000 people (NOW's count) gathered in the nation's capital to send a message to the government of this country. A message for women's reproductive freedom and rights.

Cortland sent a busload of supporters of Choice. Some of our local marchers were first time participants and others were more seasoned veterans. About twenty college students traveled with the bus, thanks to the generous support of many of our readers.

With all the masses of people, banners, signs, and buttons it was also possible to listen to a large number of speeches and performances by musicians. Some of the most prominent speakers included Gloria Steinem, Fay Wattleton, Geraldine Ferraro, Jesse Jackson, Patricia Ireland, and Susan Faludi. Also performing were singer Holly Near and Peter, Paul & Mary.

Politicians were also there in droves, including Jerry Brown, Barbara Boxer and Bill Clinton. However, President Bush did not even phone. The strongest message was anger at the government. Anger at the Senate fumbblings over Anita Hill. Anger over the Gag Rule. Anger over the stacked conservative Supreme Court. But mostly, there was anger at the Bush administration and the politicians who did not support women's reproductive rights. A cold wind is blowing for incumbent politicians this fall.

SHOW DOWN AT THE GENDER GAP

1992 promises to be the most competitive Congressional election in years because of redistricting and a record number of retirements. Because the courts have abandoned us, we need to work hard to ensure our rights are upheld in Congress, the White House, and the State House. There are some great progressive women and men running for office who reflect majority sentiments on choice. We need them! Want to work with us to get them elected, call Andrea at 753-8510. We've got some great plans!

UNWANTED BIRTHS INCREASING

An unexpected upturn in the number of unwanted births among American women has occurred between 1982 and 1988 (34 to 39 million). CDC staffer, Dr. Carol Hogue of the Division of Reproductive Health says that this is a disturbing trend. Researchers suggest that the decrease by one third in state and federal family planning funds and the 6% decrease in the number of abortion providers in the country is the reason.

This increase is sharpest among women with less than a high school education living below the poverty level. Unwanted children from these backgrounds are likely to experience problems growing up.

Before 1982 the trend had been a gradual decline in unwanted births.

Ithaca Journal 11/18/91

ABORTION RATE DROPS FOR YOUNG TEENS

CDC says that the rate of abortions for those under 15 is the lowest in 2 decades. This does not reflect a decrease in young teen pregnancy but rather an increase in the number of girls who decide to have their babies. In 1980 there were 1408 abortions for every 1000 births. In 1988, 949 abortions were performed for every 1000 births for those under 15 years of age.

Family Planning World 11-12/91

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The US Senate forever tarnished it's own image in voting to confirm Clarence Thomas. The very integrity of the Supreme Court, already packed with conservative ideologies determined to widen the sweep of their anti-abortion rulings, stands gravely undermined."

*Fay Wattleton,
Planned Parenthood President*

APRIL 20 - "A" - DAY

Randy Terry and Operation Rescue (O.R.) is to invade Buffalo on this date.

The Supreme Court is to begin dealing with the legality of the restrictive Pennsylvania abortion law on this date.

Protesters from around the country plan to converge on Buffalo for a month of picketing and blockades. Terry had hired private investigators to spy on the 5 physicians in Buffalo who perform abortions. Two of the 5, he claims are "weak financially and emotionally." O.R. will therefore picket in their neighborhoods.

Terry plans to expose "'the good, the bad and the ugly' of these child killers."

State Attorney General Robert Abrams and Federal District Court Judge Richard Arcara both have injunctions to bar blockages of the 2 abortion clinics in Buffalo and to impose fines beginning at \$10,000 and doubling every day. The fines will be paid to the clinics!

BRAY VS. ALEXANDRIA: A COURT CASE TO WATCH FOR

Last October, the US Supreme Court heard oral arguments in an important case known as Bray v. Alexandria Women's Health Clinic.

The case derives from a Virginia abortion clinic targeted by Operation Rescue (OR). The clinic sought and received an injunction against blockades, based in part on a 1871 civil rights statute. That statute was passed by Congress in the last century to prevent the Klu Klux Klan from blocking interstate passage of freed slaves, or otherwise harming them. It has since been used against other conspiracies which deny a class of people their constitutional rights; in the 60's, for example, it was the basis for opening schools to blacks when local officials defied desegregation laws.

The Alexandria Clinic injunction claimed that OR blockades harmed women as a class and interfered with interstate travel in cases where non-Virginians came to use the clinic. Their injunction prohibited blockades with language not unlike that found in Buffalo's own temporary restraining order. Nationwide, injunctions against clinic blockades have been upheld in the Second, Third and Fourth Courts of Appeal.

Operation Rescue claims that the 1871 statute only applies to nineteenth century social history and cannot be used against them in the 1990's. Previous appeals to the US Supreme Court had been turned down, but the Court recently agreed to hear the case now that the composition of judges has changed.

It is difficult to be optimistic about whether the Court will allow the previous broad interpretation of the statute to stand. Stay tuned.

KNOW YOUR CANDIDATE

Know your candidate's views on Abortion

	Bush	Clinton	Brown
Roe v. Wade	O	S	S
Freedom of Choice Act	O	S	S
Constitutional			
Amendment Outlawing			
Abortion	S	O	O
Medicaid Funding	O	SR	S
Mandatory parental			
consent/notification			
law	S	SR	O

O= opposes S= supports

SR= supports with restrictions

* Clinton and Brown support reversal of the edict banning abortions at overseas military facilities and overturning the Gag rule.

CRYING WOLF? --- GAG RULE

We don't think so. There has been a serious erosion of women's rights to safe, legal abortion. In Cortland County poor women on medicaid can no longer get an abortion without traveling to another county. The Jacobus Center for Reproductive Health awaits the implementation of the "Gag Rule." This federal restriction prevents counselors, nurses or nurse practitioners in subsidized clinics from discussing abortion as one choice, among many, for women. Even when the patient asks and the practitioner thinks it's necessary for a woman facing a problem pregnancy, the staff cannot provide this information. The Gag Rule was upheld by the Supreme Court (Surprised?) and the House of Reps failed to over-ride the President's veto of a reversal. A blatant election year political ploy that almost fooled the public was Bush's move to ungag Title X physicians. He knows damn well that family planning clinics can't afford to hire full time MDs as counselors.

So here is what YOU can do to stem this erosion:

1. Discuss above issues with friends
2. Letter to editor
3. Wear a Pro-Choice button. Mount a Pro-Choice bumper sticker
4. Sign up a new member for this newsletter
5. Donate time, money
6. **VOTE! REGISTER OTHERS!**

44 MILLION U.S. WOMEN HAVE LIMITED/NO ACCESS TO ABORTION

1. Young women
 2. Poor women
 3. Women in the Military serving overseas
 4. A disproportionate number of women of color
- WRITE YOUR REPS - DON'T WAIT TILL THEY**

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION HEATS UP

Right now Cardinal O'Connor and the State Conservative Party are applying tremendous pressure in Albany to restrict New Yorkers access to abortion. Medicaid funded abortions and parental consent/notification laws are the targets.

The New York State Association of Family Court Judges — those who would be responsible for ruling on abortion cases if a restrictive law *was* passed, *oppose both* notification and consent legislation.

With all due respect to the Cardinal's religiously based views, the groups which support restrictions on minor's access to safe, timely abortion services are those which *oppose all* legal abortion. The organizations which *oppose* harmful bills to restrict minors' access to abortion include not only the Family Court Judges' Association, but also:

American Academy of Pediatrics
 American Association of University Women
 American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
 American Jewish Congress
 Business and Professional Women
 League of Women Voters of New York State
 National Association of Social Workers, New York State
 National Council of Jewish Women, New York State
 New York State Council of Churches
 New York State League of Women Voters
 New York State Medical Society
 New York State Nurses' Association
 New York State Public Health Association
 New York State Republican Family Committee
 New York State Women's Bar Association
 Statewide Youth Advocacy

The initial response of the general public to parental notification laws is often favorable but polls that ask more specific questions get very different answers:

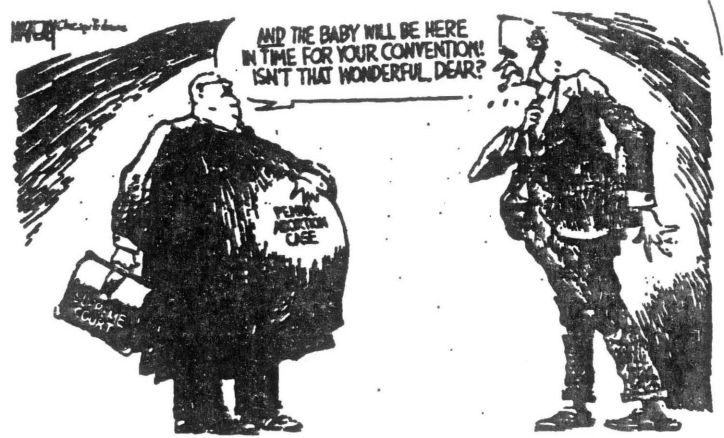
87% of New Yorkers believe that such laws could cause more harm for teens where there is physical or psychological abuse by parents.

82% believe such laws cause teens to travel secretly to other states.

78% think the law would send teens to the back alley.

We agree with the Cardinal that something needs to be done about the number of minors' abortions. We are even more troubled, however, about the rising trend in teen births which place young women at *significantly* greater risk. (The rate of teen births increased by nearly 10% between 1985 and 1989 while the teen abortion rate has declined.)

To reduce the rates of both birth and abortion there must be a concerted effort — by prochoice and antichoice proponents alike — to prevent *unintended* teen pregnancies in the first place. *Shirley Gordon, Family Planning Advocates*



WICHITA NETS RANDY TERRY \$2 MILLION BUT COSTS CITY \$846,000

Now that the bills have come due, the true costs of Randall Terry's visit to Wichita last summer are becoming clearer. In dollars, the total so far represent monies spent by several different jurisdictions:

City of Wichita:	\$405,000
County:	\$148,000
US Federal Mars:	\$293,000
TOTAL	\$846,000

The city's main expense was \$244,816 in overtime pay for police and civilian support in the 2,600 arrests plus \$11,970 in other city costs. The county's primary cost was in housing those arrested (\$110,740). The US Marshall's Office had to provide salaries, overtime, and travel expenses for Marshalls who protected the besieged clinics, provided supplemental security in the federal court, and protected Judge Kelly, who had received death threats.

Nationally televised clinic blockades are big business to Operation Rescue. Ann Baker, the President of the 80% Majority Campaign, who spoke in Buffalo in October, provided figures of income generated by Operation Rescue during its Wichita action: up to \$150,000 per day, with perhaps as much as \$2 million total. She stated that OR is not a public corporation with public records, but a cash operation wholly owned by Randall Terry, and its income is not accountable to public scrutiny. Whatever else the blockades accomplish, they do appear to rescue Randall Terry's bank book. (from *Speak Out* pg 4, 11/91)

SOUND BITES

• We don't make progress by taking the government off the backs of the people and putting it in their bedrooms and their health clinics.

Barbara Boxer - California candidate for US Senate

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE???

TAKE YOUR RIGHTS AWAY

1. **PASS** — Freedom of Choice Act - Federal (codifies Roe v. Wade)
2. **PASS** — Reproductive Health Equity Act - Federal (restores Medicaid benefits for abortion services.)
3. **OVERTURN** — "Gag Rule" - Federal HR 3090
4. **FREE R.U. 486**

VOTE SCHOOL BOARD VOTE MAY 5

The Right to Life has been most effective in putting their candidates into office. All you need is 300 votes to get elected. From the coalition of local fundamentalists and Catholic Churches they have the organizing network and the will to turn out the vote.

We stay home and sit on our hands. It's an important election strategy to "bullet" vote. In other words, even though there are 2 positions available, just vote for one good person.

Pro-Choice voters are important in school board elections. Please recall the recent disputes:

a high school counselor kept an open bible on his desk; this counselor also drove a student to the adoption agency housed in his church. She came to the counselor because she wanted an abortion. And lastly, RTLers attempted to change state law by forcing the school board to notify parents in the event of a teenage pregnancy.

**Any registered voter can vote in this election.
PLEASE DO!**

SOUND BITES

• 25 years ago women could get legal abortions in only 4 states. Who would "have imagined in the 1970's, when we were posting new and exciting victories one after another that we would be spending the next decade and more defending our gains from a right wing government?"

Pat Ireland, NOW President

CALENDAR

- • April 26, 2-4 Pro-choice of Western N.Y. Rally, Niagara Square, Buffalo
 - • May 5, Cortland City School Board Election, 12 noon - 9pm, call Charlene Huff, 753-6061 for polling places
 - • May 13, Monthly Pro-Choice meeting at 7:30 pm, YWCA - IMPORTANT MEETING
 - • May 18, NARAL Lobby Day in Albany call (518) 465-3076
 - • June 10, Monthly Pro-Choice meeting, YWCA
 - • Sept. 15, Primary Election - US Senate
- MUST BE REGISTERED ONE MONTH BEFORE THIS DATE TO VOTE.**

EDITOR'S NOTES

As the Editor of the Choice Newsletter I've learned a great deal about working with people and deadlines etc. It has mostly been a positive experience for the last 18 months. As Editor, however, I've decided I must relinquish that responsibility to someone else.

I've greatly enjoyed the metamorphic evolution of our newsletter. Your thoughtful comments suggest you have also. Each issue brought out in me a continuous, passionate dedication to Reproductive Choice.

I want to thank the readers and supporters of Choice for their belief in Freedom of Choice for all people. I know the newsletter is in equally capable hands and that there will only be more improvements in the future.

Keep reading for Choice and giving input. But most importantly do not give up the struggle for Reproductive Choice. *In Choice and Peace, Tracey Messinger*

GRACIA, THANKS and MERCI BEAUCOUP

To that wonderful busful of Pro-Choicers who went to Washington April 5.

To Pat and the mailing committee.

To Betsy for the financial handling.

To Ruth & Bill for maintaining the label list.

DID YOU MOVE RECENTLY???
IF YOU DID, YOU MUST RE-REGISTER ONE
MONTH BEFORE THE ELECTION DATE.

Please make checks payable to:
Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385
Cortland, NY 13045

I agree to vote for candidates that are
Pro-Choice.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$10.00 for mailings _____

Other Contributions _____

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

July - August 1992 --- Vol. 2, Number 12

SCHOOL BOARD VICTORY! GAG RULE VICTORY! BUFFALO VICTORY!

CITY SCHOOL BOARD

One Right to Life (RTL) Candidate has been installed on the Board in both 1990 and 1991. On 5/5/92 we helped turn the tides. Dan Jampole was our candidate not simply because he was Pro-Choice but because he gave well-reasoned answers to our quality-of-education concerns.

The incumbent, Erica Myer, lost probably because the Board did not even interview Principal Joe Coleman for the job of Superintendent. Coleman was the innovator of programs that front-loaded resources to high risk kids and forged vast community coalitions to do so. Myers objected to the teachers union organizing to support the two candidates who were victorious.

The Cortland Standard noted other organized campaigns active in the election. St. Mary's Church members called to support the RTL candidate and to "expose" another candidate as "Pro-Choice and a member of the Jacobus Center." So it appears that association with the Health Department's birth control clinic (preventer of 900 unplanned pregnancies each year) was the dirty paint brush used to smear the candidate who eventually received an unprecedented number of votes. BACKFIRE!

Thanks to all who telephoned to get out the vote! You made the difference! Thanks to all who voted.

CUOMO UNDOES GAG

At a press conference 4/21/92 that did not receive much coverage, Governor Cuomo joined 5 other governors in refusing federal family planning funds if it meant that clinics could not present all legal options to a woman with an unplanned pregnancy.

"I don't like the gag rule. I reject the gag rule," Cuomo said. He suggested that state officials find some way around the rule so that the state would continue to receive the federal Title X monies and still provide "comprehensive information that the gag rule was designed to stop."

A salute to Governor Cuomo and a salute to Kevin

Howe for the excellent 4/30/92 editorial. Mr. Howe said: "We have nothing but admiration and respect for his (Cuomo's) position on this particular issue. There is no reason whatsoever why poor women in this country should be deprived of access to information which others who are more affluent can readily obtain from private physicians. The gag rule ought to be scrapped!"

CONGRATS TO BUFFALO PCN AND BUC!

Cortland sent money and people to Buffalo and Operation Rescue was defeated! Our human barricades were so imposing that the Antis chose to break through the police barricades instead. Unlike Wichita, Choice supporters were not asked to stay away from the fracas at the clinics. They worked with the police, who would have been vastly outnumbered and who might have had to resort to more violent forms of crowd control were it not for all the Pro-Choice bodies forming human corridors for safe patient passage.

The legal arm of the Buffalo movement, the Pro-Choice Network, has been there for the past 3 1/2 years providing escort services at clinics. They have also done a superior job monitoring the courts and getting restraining orders and injunctions. O.R. must pay their fines to the clinics — this is a brilliant stroke!

The more recently organized Buffalo United for Choice (BUC) invited activists nationwide to join in the defense line for the April siege and did much training of volunteers in non-violent defense tactics.

What was to be a 4 - 6 week siege fizzled into less than two weeks. Buffalo RTLers failed to support O.R.s more militant tactics. Six hundred and twenty five Antis were arrested (including one of Cortland's own). They were eventually charged rent in jail of \$80/day when they refused to post bail. A turn around in policy allowed them to post bail, probably to allow their jailed leaders to think about how their trials (which they insist be before juries) will further tie up court resources.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE APRIL 5TH MARCH ON WASHINGTON

by Rhea Worrell

It was a windy clear spring day in the heart of Washington, D.C. that began chilly but warmed up. Clear purpose and warm cooperation were among the one million marchers as well. Clear purpose was expressed in a commitment to save women's lives, and insure women's dignity — by fighting for the choice to control one's body, for equal rights, and for a legacy of justice for daughters and granddaughters. Warm cooperation was expressed in the marchers' respect for each other in crowded situations and their understanding of the issues involved.

The message of the march (in addition to the obvious — that each woman has the **right** to control and **must** control her own destiny) is that people are what really matter. The architecture of Washington, D. C. is grand and imposing, yet cold, consisting of geometry and physics applied to steel, concrete and brick. Streets and buildings cannot love or feel and have no heart. When those who occupy them abuse power, and lie with impunity, calling evil good and good evil, they become havens for deception and death and serve to reinforce, to shield, to validate the corruption within.

What matters ultimately and always is "WE THE PEOPLE." WE THE PEOPLE are the living, breathing reality behind the concept of democracy, behind the concept and design of Washington, D.C. WE THE PEOPLE MUST GOVERN. We must take back our powers, resisting any and every suggestion of hopelessness and despair. We must refuse to accept the deeply cynical attitude of contempt for democracy that has infiltrated America today, via TV and newspapers. Those who have taken away our rights have been trying to convince us there is no use in voting, in campaigning, that the electoral democratic process is deeply flawed. Those who have themselves corrupted the democratic process present corruption (through the channels of communication that **they** control) as reprehensibly scandalous, yet inevitable, absolute, and irremediable.

Yet our involvement in the march proves that democracy lives. Perhaps our leaders assume we have forgotten the idea of government **of the people, for the people, and by the people**, but we have not forgotten and will not forget. Democracy is not a mere "ism" to be lightly dismissed: but it is about the dignity of people, all kinds of people. People's needs, people's dreams, people's beliefs. The daily lives and concerns of people are the motivating power, the engine of democracy. Democracy **promotes** self-expression and individuality, the freedom to believe, and to act one's conscience, the hallmarks of the April 5th March on Washington.



Source: HERA

POLITICAL ACTIVISTS

Women are candidates in 21 of the nation's 34 Senate races. Like Carol Mosely Braun of Illinois and Lynn Yeakel of Pennsylvania who recently won Democratic primaries, many are using or building their campaigns on the anger generated by the Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill hearings. Electing more women to public office was a theme heard at the Washington March in April, as speaker after speaker exhorted Pro-Choice advocates to go home and become politically active.

RAPE, INCEST AND HYPOCRISY

When "fetal rights" depend on whether a woman enjoyed sexually relations, the issue clearly is not about babies or human life or even abortion. Rather, it is about the public discomfiture and ambivalence toward female sexuality and the female role in society. the rape/incest exclusion is, as the enemy himself has recognized, a ruinous crack in the "abortion-is-murder" facade.

We've been afraid to ask the question: So if a fetus isn't a "person" when a woman has been raped, why is it a "person" just because she hasn't been raped? We've been afraid to exploit the blatant inconsistency, because we've feared that sudden consistency might mean banning choice for all women. That is, more than ever, a groundless fear. An absolute ban on abortion is an extremist position that is repugnant to most Americans, even those who are uneasy about abortion. Let our enemies run on such a position. Let them try to defend it. We can fight and win that kind of battle. But we will struggle very hard indeed against those who paint themselves as "moderate compromisers" and who play a conflicted public that fails or refuses to see their real agenda.

Because we can never settle for a scenario that allows choice only for rape and incest victims, we must never plea bargain for those exceptions, and we must stop ignoring the hypocrisy those exceptions represent. (taken from Pro-Choice IDEA, vol 1, no.1, WCLA)

ABORTION ACCESS DECLINES — PRICES RISE

As we await the Supreme Court decision on the Pennsylvania abortion law due by July, we worry. This law with forced waiting periods and spousal/parental consent requirements clearly limits access for the less educated.

As Randy Terry and his clones succeed with spy and harassment campaigns against individual physicians who perform abortions, clinics will close as physicians become discouraged and quit.

As legislatures continue to pass restrictive laws, medical schools choose to avoid controversy and do not even teach new physicians how to perform abortions.

If there is limited access to safe, legal abortions, prices will rise.

WELCOME "CHENANGO VOTERS FOR CHOICE"

With assistance and encouragement from CCFC, especially Tracey, a new Choice group was launched in our neighboring county. \$5.00 to C.V.F.C., P.O. Box 120, South Plymouth, N.Y. 13844 will bring you their excellent newsletter. It is of interest that they too struggle with Right to Lifers (RTL) attempting to get their candidates on the school board. Chenango RTLers would vote against sex education curriculum and for censorship of school library and text books. C.V.F.C. will honor Congressman Boehlert at a country club breakfast June 6 for his Pro-Choice stance.

Also in the recent newsletter, Dorothy Evans shared her perspective as a physician's daughter in the days before Roe v. Wade. Despite the fact that George Bush said that it would be the physician, not the woman who would be punished for illegal abortions, Evans suggested that, as in the past, women will not testify against the unskilled and unethical abortionists who exploit desperate women.

Congratulations Chenango and welcome to a massive grassroots campaign. We are everywhere!

EPIDEMIC OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORTION CLINICS

Data from 1977 to 1988 reveal that more than 100 attempted or completed arsons and bombings caused millions of dollars in damage and "disrupted provisions of health care to large numbers of women . . . this epidemic was the first time in American history that health care providers have been singled out as targets of violence in pursuit of a social agenda." Most frequent types of violent acts: Arson 39%; Attempted arson 13%; Bombing 21%; Attempted bombing 21%.

In 1984 a dramatic increase in violence was attributed to "growing frustration of the anti-abortion elements," fed by:

- 1) The Supreme Court's reaffirmation of a woman's right to abortion;
- 2) The senate's rejection of a Constitutional Amendment that would have allowed states to prohibit abortion;
- 3) The Senate's tabling of a human life statute that would allow Congress "to bypass the constitutional amendment process and to prohibit abortion by another mechanism."

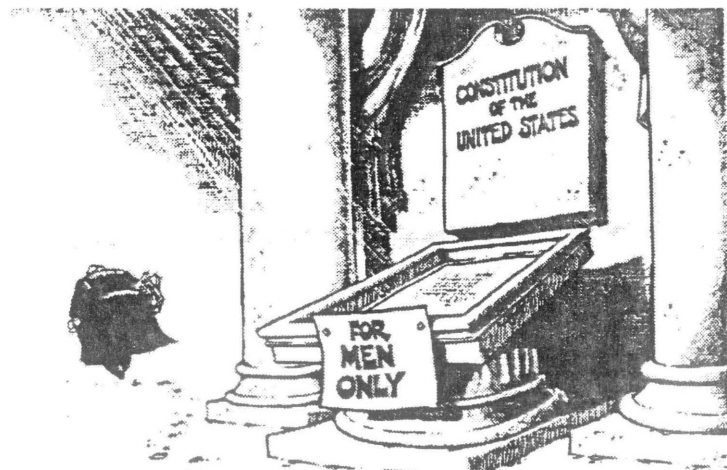
Several factors helped curb the epidemic:

- 1) Vigorous investigations by local and federal law enforcement agencies;
- 2) Arrests and convictions: the most severe sentence, 30 years, was given to two male members of the radical "Army of God." The most severe fine, \$350,000;
- 3) Most facilities that were attacked did not close permanently.

Anti-abortion violence represented only a minority of the hostile acts against abortion providers during this period. Other reported acts include: Clinic invasions-222; Clinic vandalism-220; Bomb threats-216; Death threats-65; Assault and battery-46; Burglary-20; Kidnapping-2. The actual number may be substantially higher.

The authors conclude that this violence has not "decreased the number of abortions performed. Sex education, personal responsibility, and better contraceptive practices will help to reduce the need for abortions; Molotov cocktails will not. When this is understood, the epidemic of anti-abortion violence may finally end."

Source: American Journal of OB/GYN 1991
p. 1263-68



Source: ACLU

READERS SURVEY

Please complete and return this form.

A reply envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

.....
CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEEDS YOUR INPUT AND SUPPORT...

_____ I plan to attend CHOICE meetings. Please put me on the monthly post card reminder list.

_____ I have enclosed a donation of \$ _____ for the Voter ID Project (to change prochoice people into pro choice voters!)

_____ I missed renewing my CHOICE membership in January. Enclosed is my \$10 membership fee.

_____ I am interested in part-time paid phone work for the Voter ID Project.

_____ I may participate in local, state, or national pro-choice demonstrations or actions. Call me.

I can volunteer for:

_____ correspondence	_____ suggesting names for
_____ (secretarial services)	_____ the mailing list (enclose)
_____ newsletter mailings	_____ legal services
_____ phone canvassing	_____ public speaking
_____ serving as treasurer	_____ donating office space/
_____ accounting services	_____ computer/supplies
_____ election work	_____ other _____

_____ I can't contribute at this time, but will vote Pro-Choice across party lines.

_____ I can't contribute at this time, but keep me on your mailing list.

_____ I would like more information. Please send literature on reproductive choice issues.

_____ Please take me off your mailing list.
.....

Please mail this completed form to:

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, NY 13045

Photographers and reporters swarm all around. "Not the church, not the state. Women will decide their fate." "We WON'T go back. We WILL fight back."

9:00A.M. The "Anti's" line up waiting to be processed, fingerprinted, and photographed. We notice how many of them are men. A priest, like a figure from the Middle Ages, appears wearing a long, black clerical gown and black skull cap. He carries a large rosary, a prayer book, and what appears to be a plastic rose. "Four, six, eight, ten. Why are all your leaders men?" "Two, four, six, eight. Does Randall Terry ovulate?" On the other side of the street, in back of the barricades, other "Anti's" assemble, bearing gory photographs of fetuses and blood-dripping signs. Some have small children who look wet, bedraggled, and bewildered. "Ho-Ho, Hey-Hey. Take your children home to play."

9:45 A.M. Four gays in drag appear in wigs and white gloves, carrying a banner "Church Ladies for Choice." They entertain with bawdy, provocative songs and rhymes, in an outrageous burlesque of stereotypical homosexuals. The "Anti's" are horrified by this street theater. A small group huddled under an umbrella is praying.

10:00 A.M. We see that a new group of men is awaiting arrest. They kneel on the pavement, praying. A "Peacekeeper" carrying a walkie-talkie circulates among us, announcing that, thus far, eight women have entered the clinic, and that all the scheduled appointments are being kept. Loud cheers greet this news. "The clinic is open. The clinic is open."

10:40 A.M. Day-glo orange clad and helmeted sheriffs, U.S. marshalls, and Buffalo police move the barricades so that the buses bearing the arrestees can move out. We wave to them and they wave back. "Na-Na-Na-Nah, Na=Na-Na-Nah, Na-NAAAAHHHH-*na* Goodbye, Goodbye." The three wannabe arrested are still kneeling on the pavement. The rain has changed to a drizzle. When four musicians appear and wander through the crowd, some of us start dancing, the movement providing welcome warmth. A kick line is formed by dancers, ~~who are~~ clumsy in their soggy clothes. I wonder for a moment if we're supposed to have fun doing this. Looking across the street, I think about the well-meaning people, the "Anti's." Can they really believe they have the right to prevent a woman from making a decision about her own body? I speculate that Margaret Atwood must have had such folks in mind when she wrote The Handmaid's Tale.

11:45 A.M. We are told that all clinic appointments have been kept, and that we may leave. It has, mercifully, stopped raining, although it doesn't really matter for all of us have long-since been soaked to the skin.

12:30 P.M. Back in the van. On the way home we reward ourselves with an elegant lunch at a small bakery/cafe in Amherst. Operation Rescue has failed for a sixth day. Driving east on the Thruway we stuff envelopes with the current issue of Choice.

Diary of a Defender

Friday, April 24. 4:30 P.M.

After stowing our sleeping bags in the back, six of us leave for Buffalo in a roomy, comfortable van. We chat about the weather, wondering if the predicted rain will affect tomorrow's demonstration. We talk briefly about being arrested and hope we are not.

9:00 P.M. After stopping to eat on the Thruway we arrive at the home of friends of one in our group who have kindly agreed to put us up. We visit with our hosts in front of a welcome fire and hear about the week's events as seen through the eyes of Buffalo residents. They tell us that the excellent planning and organization, both legal and tactical, had led to all the clinics' being kept open, and the general sense that this protest would in no way resemble last summer's O.R. activities in Wichita, Kansas.

Saturday, April 25. 4:45 A.M.

Blearily, we fortify ourselves in the kitchen with fresh apple cake and hot tea as we prepare to leave for the Main Street Clinic where we are supposed to assemble at 5:30.

5:20 A.M. We step out into the pitch black darkness and pouring rain, and trudge several blocks to our destination. Approaching, we see that a large crowd has already arrived in front of the Clinic. There, after registering with a "Peacekeeper," we are shown how to form a human "wall": link arms with the person on either side; put your right leg over your neighbor's left, and your left leg in back of your neighbor's right. Next, we learned how, by arching our arms in a line at right angles to the Clinic's wall, to form a corridor through which a clinic patient might be escorted without being harrassed by "anti's." Some burly types are assigned to test our lines by running and crashing into us. After a couple of "cave-ins," we flex our muscles and stand firm. Success! We're ready.

7:00 A.M. Why does it seem as if it HAS to be at least 9:00 o'clock? The rain is steady. Some chanting starts: "Whaddawe want?" CHOICE "Whendawe want it?" ALWAYS.

8:15 A.M. A number of us are moved around to the side of the building when it is learned that the "anti's" intend to blockade the clinic's rear entrance. We see them first, in large numbers, crawling under the police barricades. ^{On their hands and knees} there are so many that it looks as if the pavement were moving. A loud voice shouts at the police, "We stopped them but you let them through." There is much yelling as the police prevent them from progressing, and they are warned that if they do not go back they will be arrested. They remain, and the police place plastic handcuffs on each of them. Chanting begins: "Hey-Hey, Ho-Ho. Boot 'em out of Buffalo."

DIARY OF A CLINIC DEFENDER

by Pat Shedd

Friday, April 24, 4:40 P.M.

After stowing our sleeping bags, six of us climb into a roomy, comfortable van and leave for Buffalo.

9:00 P.M.

Following a stop to eat on the Thruway we arrive at the home of friends of one in our group who have kindly agreed to put us up.

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5:20 A.M.

We step out into the pitch black darkness and pouring rain, and trudge several blocks to our destination. We register with a "Peacekeeper" and learn, first, how to form a human wall to prevent the "Antis" from blockading the clinic; second, we are taught how to form a corridor through which a patient and escort might run into and out of the building without being harassed.

7:00 A.M.

Why does it seem as if it has to be at least 9:00 o'clock? The rain is steady. Some chanting starts: "Whaddawe want" CHOICE. Whendawe want it? ALWAYS."

8:15 A.M.

A number of us are moved around to the side of the building when it is learned that the "Antis" intend to block the rear entrance. We see them first, in large numbers, crawling under the police barricades. On their hands and knees, there are so many of them that it looks as if the pavement were moving. Despite the police order to move back, they remain, are arrested and handcuffed. Reporters and photographers are swarming around. "Hey-hey, Ho-ho, Boot 'em out of Buffalo." "We WON'T go back. We WILL fight back."

9:00 A.M.

The "Antis" line up, waiting to be processed, fingerprinted, and photographed. We notice how many of them are men. "Four-six-eight-ten. Why are all your leaders men?" Across the street, in back of the barricades, other "Antis" assemble, bearing gory photographs of fetuses and blood-dripping signs.

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10:40 A.M.

Day-glo orange clad and helmeted sheriffs, U.S. marshals, and police move the barricades so buses bearing arrestees can move out. We wave to them and they wave back. "Na-Na-Na-Nah, Na-Na-Na-Nah, Na- NAAAAAAAH-Na. Goodby. Goodby." Playing instruments, four musicians wander through the crowd and some of us start dancing. The rain has changed to drizzle.

11:45 A. M.

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12:30 P.M.

Back in the van. On the way home we stuff envelopes with the current issue of CHOICE. Operation Rescue has failed for the sixth day.

KANSAS LAW

In the wake of the Wichita siege by Randy Terry, Kansas passed an abortion law to become effective July 1. It mandates an 8 hour wait, that alternatives to abortion be discussed, and parental consent unless the physician thinks it is not needed.

It also makes it a criminal offense to blockade clinics and states that no local government laws can restrict abortion. It affirms that abortion is legal until viability.

Pro-Choice forces think that this law is not too bad.

PLANNING FOR THE DAY THAT ABORTIONS ARE ILLEGAL

An article in U.S. News and World Report (Mar. 6, 92; 64) lists "grass-roots counteroffensives" in the face of near certainty that the U.S. Supreme Court, sometime this summer will outlaw or, more likely, severely restrict a woman's right to abortion. Such responses include the following activities:

1) Groups of women informing themselves and others about a "do-it-yourself abortion technique called menstrual extraction."

2) The Society of Friends forming the "Quaker Underground" modeled after the old slavery underground, to transport and shelter women seeking abortions.

3) Several feminist groups "agitating to get RU-486, the French abortion pill into the United States, with or without an official green light."

The article concludes that "the ultimate value of the abortion underground may be its simmering political potency." Supporting this point, Carol Downer, president of the Federation of Feminist Women's Health Centers, notes that "It sends a signal to legislators that if you don't agree with us, we're going to get (abortions) anyway!" And to reinforce this idea the article points out that "as Congress's eventual repeal of Prohibition 1933 shows, that sort of message can prove a powerful agent of change."

TAXPAYERS FOOT THE OPERATION RESCUE BILLS

Erie County officials estimate that the county will pay more than \$500,000 for expenses related to the two weeks of

CALENDAR

- July 8, Pro-Choice Meeting 7:30pm YWCA
- August 12, Pro-Choice Meeting 7:30 pm YWCA
- August 14, Last day to register to Vote. Moved?
Need to register at Court House.
- Sept. 15, Primary U.S. Senate race-pending redistricting.
- Sept. 19, Country Club Meet the Candidate
Brunch sponsored by the Women's Coalition.
- Nov. 3, Election Day ... VOTE PRO-CHOICE!

anti-abortion protests by Operation Rescue. Unbudgeted expenses were incurred by overtime hours for police and sheriffs, as well as the cost of processing, transporting, and housing the 625 protesters who were arrested.

Unlike Buffalo Mayor James R. Griffen who welcomed O.R., Erie County Executive Director Dennis Gorski was critical of the protests, stating that "a half million dollars is still a considerable amount of money for something that didn't change anything." He added that the loss of revenue would mean "the diminution of other, worthwhile public purposes, or create a deficit within the Sheriff's account." Meanwhile, Undersheriff William Payne says the county plans "to charge Operation Rescue protesters who have declined bail \$80 for every day they remain incarcerated."

The total county and federal costs for Operation Rescue's activities last summer in Wichita, Kansas, was \$846,447.

Cortland Standard, May 6, 1992

GRACIOUS, THANKS AND MERCI BEAUCOUP TO:

- That wonderful busful of people who went to Washington 4/5/92
- That wonderful vanful of people who went to Buffalo to defend Clinics - It worked!
- Tracey for inspiring a new Pro-Choice group in Chenango
- Ruth, Bill, Pat, Rhea, & Julia for newsletter assistance.
- Betsy for long tenure as treasurer. Please, is there someone willing to take on this responsibility?
- All those who made phone calls to assure our victory at the Board of Education election.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Please make checks payable to:
Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385
Cortland, NY 13045

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$10.00 for mailings

Other Contributions: \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.

P.O. BOX 385

CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

September - October 1992

Vol.3, Number 1

WOMEN'S COALITION

MEET THE CANDIDATES BRUNCH

September 19, 1992

CORTLAND COUNTRY CLUB

TICKETS 756-7726

Pat

11:00 AM

BRUNCH

The Womens Coalition (YWCA Public Affairs Committee, ZONTA, League of Women Voters, SUNY Cortland Women's Studies and AAUW) will sponsor their second MEET THE CANDIDATES Brunch at the Cortland Country Club on Sept. 19 at 11:00 AM. Seating is limited to 100 and this event was sold out in 1990. To date Jim Seward, Rhea Jezer (Congress), Michael O'Hara (Assembly) and Robert Todd (Assembly) have accepted.

FEDS DECLINE TO PROSECUTE TERRY

With blessings from the White House, U.S. Attorney Obermaier refused to bring criminal contempt charges against Randy Terry and his followers for violating a court order against presenting an aborted fetus to Bill Clinton during the convention. State Attorney General Abrams may be appointed to do same.

Cortland Standard 8/5/92

RANDALL TERRY AND GOD

Sarah Weddington and Randall Terry were on a California TV panel together. When Terry first saw Weddington, he said, "Sarah, God wants you to repent." She kept her restraint through the program and its aftermath, but when he preached at her yet again at the end of the session, she finally turned to him and said, "Randy, I've talked to God, and she doesn't remember you."

Speak Out Magazine

Pro-Choice Network of Western New York

HATS FOR CHOICE

Women wearing hats occupied a large reserved table at a recent women's Democratic luncheon. Some were veterans of Randy Terry's recent Buffalo siege. Some



had marched in Washington for April 5. Others were enthusiastic supporters of Choice. Wear hats to the Country Club brunch September 19 to signify your position on Choice!

LOCAL PRO-CHOICERS TURN OUT JULY 6

Those who think of supporters of our cause as humorless should have joined our July 6th rally in front of the Cortland Post Office. It was part of the nation-wide effort to protest the Supreme Court's dismemberment of Roe v. Wade. The amiable crowd of fifty or so consisted of young and old button-wearing, banner-waving men and women who, while serious about our purpose were clearly enjoying the moment. Reporters interviewed a number of us as drivers supporting CHOICE honked their agreement when they recognized our big blue and white banner held up above the building's railing by enthusiastic members.

We even had at least one gate-crasher, a David Duke supporter bent on denouncing CHOICE and Margaret Sanger.

All in all, it was a real success, with ever-ingenuous fund-raising through the sale of buttons and bumper stickers and collecting dollars from all for each counter protester to show. Best of all, of course, is the morale-boost we all got from sharing an hour with like-minded neighbors we may see only now and then.

Later, we had the pleasure of reading and hearing about our rally through the local media, which doubtless served to raise the public's level of consciousness regarding the perilous status of CHOICE and our local strength.

THE ABORTION PILL, MEDICAL RESEARCH, AND BOYCOTTS

With the Supreme Court's refusal to allow pregnant Leona Benten to keep the single dosage of RU-486 she had brought into this country from England, women, according to a recent news item "may not be the only losers." U.S

News reports that medical researchers "worry that the pill's ability to induce abortions has overshadowed its potential to treat numerous ailments, from brain tumors to severe cases of endometriosis, an infertility-causing disorder. In Canada, clinical trials are underway to study the effects of RU-486 on breast cancer. French researchers hope to use it to induce labor and thus help women avoid Cesarean sections."

But the FDA has not approved the drug because Roussel-Uclaf, the French manufacturer, fearing a boycott of its other products by anti-abortionists, has never applied for its approval in the U.S. "But abortion-rights activists are playing the same game. The Feminist Majority Foundation, an advocacy group based in Cambridge, Mass., is urging companies and pension funds to avoid doing business with Roussel's two parent companies — Hoechst of Germany and Rhone-Poulenc of France — until it tries to make RU-486 available in America."

(U.S. NEWS, 7/27/92, p.6.)

NEW YORK ATTORNEY GENERAL ABRAMS ON CASEY RULING

"The Court is clearly pursuing its right-wing agenda of eviscerating the right to reproductive freedom, while trying to minimize the political damage to George Bush and the Republican Party.

"This cynical strategy will not fool American women and all those who support the right of choice.

"As any law student knows, the standard of judicial review is critically important in determining the scope of constitutional rights, and the 'strict scrutiny' standard set forth in Roe is the heart of that landmark decision. By substituting the watered down 'undue burden' standard, this decision effectively dismantles the constitutional protection for a woman's right to choose.

"The inevitable result of this decision will be a chaotic patchwork of abortion laws across the country as anti-choice forces descend on state legislatures to further limit women's rights."

Abrams also issued a very stiff injunction against Randy Terry and his boys at the Democratic National Convention.

SNIPITS



- RECENTLY SEEN BUMPER STICKER:

SUPPORT THE PRE-CONCEIVED STAMP OUT MASTURBATION

- Why can't George Bush deregulate the bedroom patrol like he deregulates our environmental protections? or the S & Ls? Our most private decisions as to when and if to have a child are at stake.

100 MILLION WOMEN MISSING

Chinese women don't have bound feet anymore and Indian women no longer throw themselves on their husband's funeral pyres. But women's unequal status is manifest in a more dramatic way worldwide. The traditional preference for boys in developing countries translates into selective abortions, neglect and death for girls. "Millions of women have died because they're women." Lopsided sex ratios exist in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua, New Guinea, Egypt, Turkey, India and China. Despite similar poverty, there are countries and areas such as Saharan Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean that do not have these imbalances.

Source: New York Times 11/5/91

EXPOSE THE OPPOSITION

Ellie Smeal, former head of NOW stated that it was time to see the Right-to-Lifers for what they really are. Many basically are just anti-woman, she says. She wonders where they get all their money and questions the enormous fees for the services of their adoption agencies. Why are all their leaders 25-40 year old white males? Are they the truly disenfranchised?

WHAT ME WORRY?

7/89	Webster decision limits access to abortion in Missouri
3/90	Guam anti-abortion law in effect 4 days before injunction blocked it
4/90	Idaho law bans abortion; Governor vetoes
6/90	Ohio/Minnesota parental notification laws passed
1/91	Utah passes most restrictive abortion law
5/91	Gag Rule Upheld: Title X Family Planning clinics can't say the "A" word. Implementation still pending
6/91	Louisiana passes strictest anti-abortion law in country; Rape, incest &: life of mother only
7/91	Wichita - summer of Randy Terry and Operation Rescue
4/92	Randy Terry in Buffalo for O.R. Fizzle
7/92	Randy Terry at Democratic National Convention/Rescues



1992 — A RARE ELECTION YEAR

1. Redistricting will have an impact by creating seats with no incumbents or having incumbents face each other.
2. Congress may have as many as 100 Congressional races with no incumbents (4 X's the usual). This is due to "ethics" reforms. Congressmembers can no longer keep their war chest of unused campaign money when retiring after 1992.

To pass the Freedom of Choice Act (codifying Roe v. Wade) we need to win big in Congress. Gag rule veto overturn was lost by only 12 votes. 1992 is an important year.

PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH (R)

"After years of sober and serious reflections on this issue, this is what I think. I think the Supreme Court's decision in Roe v. Wade was wrong and should be overturned. I think America needs a Human Life Amendment."

- X Opposes *Roe v. Wade*
- X Opposes the Freedom of Choice Act
- X Supports Constitutional Amendment outlawing abortion
- X Supports ban of abortions at overseas military facilities
- X Supports the "Gag Rule"; President Bush vetoed the FY 1991 Labor/HHS Appropriations Bill which would have overturned the "Gag Rule" on abortion counseling.
- X Opposes Medicaid funding; President Bush has repeatedly vetoed legislation that would have restored funds for poor women to obtain abortions in the case of rape and incest.
- X Supports mandatory parental notification/consent laws

GOVERNOR BILL CLINTON (D)

"The government simply has no right to interfere with decisions that must be made by women in consultation with their partners, doctors, friends, and clergy. I trust the women of America to make the right choice. A Clinton Administration will oppose any attempts to weaken that fundamental right."

- X Supports *Roe v. Wade*
- X Supports the Freedom of Choice Act
- X Opposes Constitutional amendment outlawing abortion
- X Supports reversal of edict banning abortions at overseas military facilities
- X Supports overturn of the "Gag Rule"
- X Medicaid funding: *"It is clear to me that the Hyde Amendment should be repealed to ensure that, at least in the case of rape, incest, or danger to the health of the mother, women will be able to receive federal funding to pay for an abortion. . . Although I have supported certain limited restrictions upon government funding for abortion I would not veto any bill requiring Medicaid funding that passed Congress."*
- X Mandatory parental notification/consent: *"I signed a parental notice law in Arkansas because I believe, whenever possible, parents should help their children work through the decision on abortion and its consequences. The Arkansas law is a notice, not a parental consent law, and has a workable judicial bypass provision which is essential to any parental notice legislation."*



MOVE ?
YOU MUST RE-REGISTER
Last Registration Days
October 8th - 4pm - 9pm
October 10th - 2 pm - 9pm

CHOICE QUOTES

"Reproductive decisions are private. Government's role is only to empower citizens of all incomes and get out of the way. After all, do we really want to entrust such decisions to a bunch of men who cannot balance their own checkbooks, who never saw a weapons system they couldn't find billions for, but have a hard time finding a few hundred million for Headstart?"

Ron Ein, Exec. Director of Planned Parenthood of Northern New York

"We had captured most of the high ground in a short stretch of years, from Griswold v. Connecticut in 1965 (Birth control legalized for married couples) to Roe v. Wade in 1973, including a national family planning program in 1970, Title X, led by then Congressman George Bush. With sympathetic Congressional leadership, White House support and the Supreme Court all actively supporting our agenda, reproductive rights became the law of the land."

Ibid

"I regret that we do not have the votes to defeat the family planning program. . ."

Ronald Reagan to Orrin Hatch 1981

"A pregnant woman asks for abortion providers in the area. The Title X project tells her that it does not refer for abortion."

Federal Register Gag Rule

FETUS DISPLAY BY RTL

Attorney General Abrams is suing Buffalo Assembly of God minister, Rev. Schenck for using a fetus as a prop at the anti-abortion demonstration this Spring. Schenck says he is not exploiting "Baby Tia (because) we have brought her out on only a few very select occasions." The Erie County Medical Examiner said the confiscated fetus was probably a 20 week still birth but Schenck claims it's a 24 week aborted fetus. Abrams suit is based on public health law.

Source: Cortland Standard

CALENDAR

- Sept. 9, Pro-Choice Meeting 7:30pm YWCA (Voter ID Project Report)
- Sept. 15, Primary Election (Noon to 9pm)
- Sept. 19, Meet the Candidates Brunch
- Oct. 14, Pro-Choice Meeting 7:30pm YWCA
- Nov. 3, Election Day . . . VOTE PRO-CHOICE!

- LAST REGISTRATION DAYS
OCTOBER 8TH (4PM TO 9PM)
OCTOBER 10TH (2PM TO 9PM)

400,000 EXTRA TEEN BIRTHS

If U.S. teens have no access to abortion in situations of unplanned pregnancy, there is the possibility that 400,000 teens would be forced to give birth. Consider the cost.

- In 1989, \$21.5 billion was the governmental cost of teen child bearing. \$25 billion in 1990.

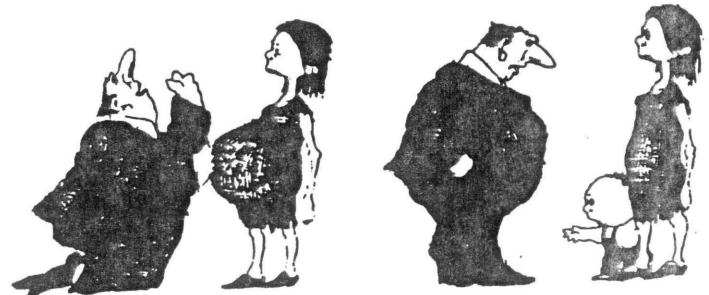
- In Cortland, the first year cost for a teen having a baby is \$16,000 - \$21,000.

- Teen pregnancy is the greatest predictor of welfare dependency.

- Teen parenthood increases the chances of poverty and of teen parenthood in the next generation.

GRACIOUS, THANKS AND MERCİ BEAUCOUP TO:

- Our new treasurer, Tracey
- Pat and Andrea for writings
- Colleen and the mailing committee
- Bill and Ruth for mailing list maintenance



MIRACLE OF LIFE

SNEVELING LITTLE
WELFARE CREAT

Newsletter/Membership Form

Please make checks payable to:
Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385
Cortland, NY 13045

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$10.00 for mailings _____

Other Contributions _____

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

November - December 1992
Vol.3, Number 2

Roe v. Wade Lawyer Sarah Weddington to Speak October 27th • 7:30 pm Corey Union • SUCC

SUPREME COURT CONVENES AT COUNTRY CLUB

The Cortland Country Club was the scene on Saturday, September 19th, of the Brunch sponsored by the Cortland Women's Coalition. Providing an opportunity for Congressional, State Senate and Assembly candidates to present their views on women's issues, the event was attended by representatives of the Bush/Quayle and Clinton/Gore campaigns. The only candidate who failed to appear was Congressman James Walsh, who now represents Cortland County in the newly re-drawn district.

Following a three-minute presentation by each candidate, the question and answer period dealt mostly with the free trade agreement, jobs and CHOICE.

The candidates represented a wide political spectrum. Regarding CHOICE, it should be noted that none of the candidates attending the 1990 Brunch accepted the Right-to-Life-Party's endorsement; this year, two of the nine candidates filed under the Party's sponsorship. (As a point of interest, in 1980 there were 65 major party candidates for the New York State Legislature who accepted Right-to Life Party endorsement. In 1990 there were only six.)

CHOICE supporters were much in evidence, with many wearing hats of all colors, shapes, and sizes. Rozanne Brook's was a standout, a confection of black net and tulle. As guests entered the Clubhouse they were treated to some unexpected entertainment, street theater consisting of music by the "Supremes." Twelve black-robed and white-wigged Justices sang persuasively of the need to "STOP NOW, before you change the law. . . . STOP in the name of CHOICE!"

VOTE!

VOTERS' GUIDE

The following is a guide to the candidates' positions on CHOICE.

President	Bush (R, RTL) Anti-choice CLINTON (D) PRO- CHOICE
Congress	RHEA JEZER (D) PRO- CHOICE James Walsh (R) Anti-choice
U.S. Senate	Al D'Amato (R, RTL) Anti-choice BOB ABRAMS (D) PRO- CHOICE
126 Assembly	Micheal O'Hora (D, RTL) Anti-choice DANIEL FESSENDER (R) PRO-CHOICE*
125 Assembly	MARTY LUSTER (D) PRO- CHOICE ROBERT TODD (R) PRO-CHOICE
50 State Senate	J. SEWARD (R) PRO-CHOICE B. LIVESAY (D) PRO-CHOICE

* RTL - Right To Life Party Endorsement

MONEY BUYS THOMAS CONFIRMATION

Capital Games, a new book by journalist Phelps and Winternitz, exposes a highly orchestrated and financed P.R. campaign for the Thomas' confirmation to the Supreme Court. Burned by the anti-Bork Coalition, conservatives vowed, "never again."

Thomas while still EEOC chair had private "meetings at the national headquarters of the radical, religious New Right. The headquarters is run by Paul Weyrich. . . (who) had helped found the Heritage Foundation and given the Moral Majority its name. Weyrich, a master political strategist. . . organized coalitions of New Right groups. . . . The one common denominator. . . was their opposition to abortion. Among them were the National Right to Life Committee, and the most extreme of anti-abortion groups, the American Life Lobby, which considers (all) abortions to be murder. . . Its leader. . . Judie Brown, is opposed additionally to birth control."

"Weyrich's coalitions also crusade for prayer in the schools and against gay rights, women's rights and pornography. . . ."

Weyrich said in 1980, "We are different from previous generations of conservatives. We are no longer working to preserve the status quo. We are radicals working to overturn the present power structure of the country."

"At the first of three meetings with Weyrich's pro-life groups, Thomas provided the assurances they wanted."

"Our people felt. . . he was one of us." said Tom Jipping, one of Weyrich's chief aides.

"Weyrich's coalition had pushed the White House hard to have Thomas named to his first appellate judgeship. . . ."

The Family Research Council (FRC), The Eagle Forum (Phyllis Schlafly) and Concerned Women for America, all anti-choice coalition members, were among the groups participating in the strategy sessions for confirmation. Joining these sessions were 2 White House officials as well.

Gary Bauer of F.R.C. raised \$500,000 to run an ad that literally showed mud being thrown at the face of Thomas. The biggest spender, however, was Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition.

His \$1,000,000 in ads generated 100,000 letters and calls to the Senate.

Floyd Brown, the creator of the Willie Horton ad, produced an ad at the National Republican Congressional Committee's facility. It featured liberal Democrats: Cranston's S & Ls, Biden's plagiarism and Kennedy tabloid coverage and served as "a shot across the bow" warning.

CHOICE QUOTE

"Feminism encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians."

Pat Robertson

SUPREMES WOW SCRANTON NOW

As they skyrocket to national fame, the Cortland "Supremes for Choice" delighted the SRO (Standing Room Only) audience at Pennsylvania's NOW Conference held October 3rd in Scranton. The march and rally attracted CHOICE supporters to the hometown of Governor Casey, Attorney General Ernie Preate and Bishop Timlin, the Roman Catholic cleric who has spearheaded much anti-abortion activity. The Cortland contingent agreed that they had seldom been in such a hostile atmosphere, described by one as being "almost palpable."

Beginning at Cardinal O'Connor Square (!) the route took marchers around a complex that included a church, the bishop's residence, and parochial schools. The "Supremes" generated enthusiastic cheers, laughter, and fresh air, qualities not appearing to be in abundance in this church-dominated city.

A POLITICAL "TURN-ON" FOR WOMEN

The excitement and enthusiasm at the reception for seven women senate candidates electrified 3000 supporters who greeted them at the New York Hilton. Held during the Democratic Convention in New York City, the affair raised \$750,000 (the most ever in a single event for women) for Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein, CA; Lynn Yeakel, PA; Josie Heath, CO; Geraldine Ferraro, NY; Carol Moseley Braun, IL; and Barbara Mikulski, MD.

A radiant Glenn Close introduced Ellen Malcolm, founder of Emily's List, who, in turn, introduced each of the candidates. Seen as an important part of their campaigns, the fight for CHOICE is supported by all the women.

Quick Snapshots:

Snap #1 Wonderful, square, dynamic Barbara Mikulski roused the crowd with her gravel-voiced exhortations encouraging women to participate in politics at every level.

Snap #2 Lynn Yeakel's video showing clips of the Thomas-Hill hearings asked, "Did this make you as angry as it did me?" Yeakel opposes Sen. Arlen Specter, whose questioning of Anita Hill infuriated many Americans.

Snap #3 The roar of the crowd each time support for CHOICE was mentioned.

Snap #4 In the lobby — a T-Shirt printed:

ON FRONT: BUSHE and QUALE

ON BACK: FORE MOR YEARES

Snap #5 Betty Friedan greets well-wishers and signs autographs for young women born after "The Feminine Mystique" was published.

CHOICE QUOTES (Cont'd)

- "Are you listening, America?

The marchers in Washington on Sunday couldn't have been any clearer in their message: Don't rob American Women of . . . Choice.

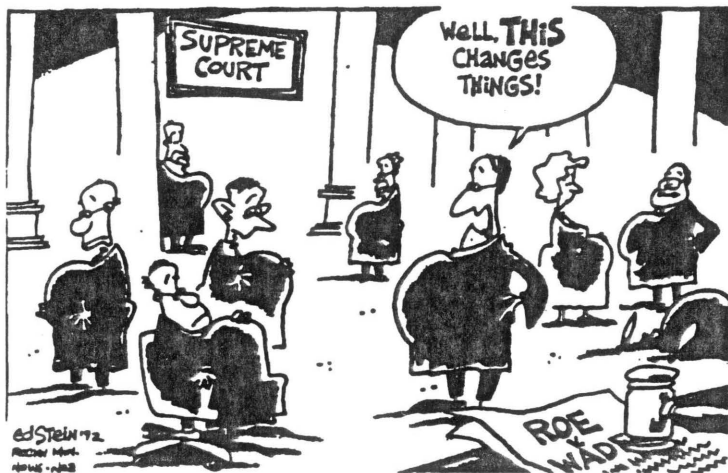
Fringe organization?

Calling a group that helped organize one of the largest demonstrations in U.S. history a fringe organization is a little like calling War and Peace a short story.

Post Standard Editorial 4/8/92

Editor Note: *We do better at turning out people for marches than turning out voters at the polls.*

Alan Simpson during Hill-Thomas hearings remarked publicly that women's groups are so lacking breadth of outlook that "you couldn't change them if you herded them over a cliff in a buffalo romp."



RANDY TERRY CHALLENGES BOEHLERT FOR CONGRESS

In the new 23rd Congressional district seat representing northern Broome, Madison and Chenango counties, Operation Rescue founder, Randy Terry is endorsed by the Right-to-Life Party (NY is the only state with such a party). Terry is known for abortion clinic blockades in Wichita, Buffalo and at the Democratic Convention. He was the host of a nationally syndicated radio talk show and faces trial in NYC for criminal contempt (Attorney General Abrams prosecuting). Terry referred to Abrams as "Antichrist" (Rochester D & C 4/27/92.) Terry quotes: "we're involved in a cultural civil war to bring reformation to the church and nation." Terry advocates the need to counter the "anti-male, lesbian-oriented, Marxist oriented, put-the-kids-in-day-care-and pursue a career, pro-abortion mentality. . ." 10/2/91 Time

Boehlert's quote on Terry: "He borders on being a kook" (8/14/92 Cortland Standard).

Boehlert has represented Cortland and has been strongly Pro-Choice. He recently took on the Republican platform committee for its Anti-Choice plank. The

committee was 16% PRO-CHOICE. The convention delegates are 55% PRO-CHOICE. Republicans, in general are 71% PRO-CHOICE.

"LIFE, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL CHOICE."

DeMoss Foundation bankrolls the \$20M beautifully produced anti-choice ad campaign currently hitting the airwaves. According to Family Planning Advocates of Albany, this foundation is an extremist evangelical organization with an anti-abortion agenda. DeMoss Foundation has \$400 million in assets and supports programs that are "evangelistic and discipling" in nature.

One ad features remarkably photogenic young children, "all unplanned pregnancies. . . that could have ended in abortions." The ad idealizes adoption and implies that women who opt for abortion are taking the easy way out. The ad forgets to say:

- There are 2400 children in NYS alone who wait in foster care or institutions for adoption.
- The non-white, older, mentally or physically disabled child is difficult to place.

The ad suggests that adoption is without trauma. Rarely would a teen who was adopted herself and accidentally pregnant consider adoption as an option.

- What of the HIV positive baby or the one born drug addicted?
- What of the mothers whose health and future are severely threatened by a pregnancy?

Even if we had \$20 M for birth control ads, the media have refused to accept our ads in the past. TNT, Lifetime TV & USA Network carry the DeMoss ads.

MY, HOW WE'VE GROWN!

This newsletter now reaches 500 PRO-CHOICE households. Looking back on our records, we noted that we printed 300 newsletters for May 1991! Call Andrea now, 753-8510, with the names of more PRO-CHOICE friends. Help us continue to grow.

POSTERS FROM PAST WASHINGTON PRO-CHOICE DEMONSTRATIONS

- Bush has no womb for discussion
 - Roe, Roe, Roe or Sink
 - Rapists make lousy fathers
 - My Mom had an illegal abortion.
- I don't miss the baby, I miss my Mom.

VOTE!!

MAILING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR 92 - 93

Thanks to the following folks who will be responsible for our newsletter mailings in the months to come. Mailing parties are fun so if you are so inclined to volunteer, call to say that you'll give assistance.

October 92 - Rhea
December 92 - Ruth
February 93 - Henry
April 93 - Pat

WHO GETS ABORTIONS?

63% single
81% single, divorced or separated
19% married
52% have no children
12% are under 18 years of age
33% are 20 - 24
57% no previous abortion
43% previous abortion
51% were using contraception
Catholics get abortions at higher rates than those of

other religions.

46% of all women will have an abortion in their lifetime. Since the 1989 Webster decision, college freshman polls indicate abortion should be legal (65% as opposed to 53 - 59% previously). 3 in 100 women (15 - 44 years) obtain an abortion each year. U.S. has one of the highest abortion rates in the world. Why?

METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE AFFIRMS ABORTION STANCE

At the 1992 National Conference for United Methodist, the denomination retained their PRO-CHOICE stance. Margins in these votes ranged from 70 - 85%.

CALENDAR

- Oct. 27, Sarah Weddington at SUCC Corey
Function Room 7:30pm
- Oct. 28, Democratic Women's Torchlight Parade
Watch for details
- Nov. 3, Election Day 6am - 9pm
- Nov. 11, Pro-Choice Meeting 7:30pm YWCA
- Nov. 18, Noon GenderGap Election Analysis -
Peg Murphy YWCA
- Dec. 9, Pro-Choice Meeting - All Welcome
7:30pm YWCA
- Jan. 22, 20th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade



ANOTHER VICTORY IN STATE ASSEMBLY

It was NO GO for the parental notification legislation for this year anyway. On June 16th the Assembly Health Committee voted 13 to 5 to hold this bill which would have required parental notification for minors seeking abortions. Assembly sponsor John Dearie had predicted that it would fall only 2-3 votes short in committee.

Right-to-Life forces built a major lobbying effort around this bill. To counter this the Women's Action Coalition, styled after the AIDS group ACT-UP, sent its members to high schools and teen hang outs to collect written testimonials from girls who would be affected by the bill. They sent "Zap faxes" to the governor and read from the teens' letters on the Capital steps.

Any reasonable person would agree that teens should discuss abortion with their parents. The bottom line is that most teens do tell their parents but those who do not have good reasons — violence, sexual abuse, incest. Family communication cannot be legislated.

GRACIOUS, THANKS and MERCI BEAU COUP TO:

To all those who wrote their state rep. about parental notification

To Julia and Gene for mailing

To Rhea for the survey creation

To Tracey for the monthly post card reminders

To Ruth for the new stationery and post cards - they're great!

To Bill for the wonderful job with the mailing list

To Pat for newsletter articles and correspondence to contributors

To Cortland Press for always doing a nice job and on time.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Please make checks payable to:
Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385
Cortland, NY 13045

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$10.00 for mailings _____

Other Contributions _____

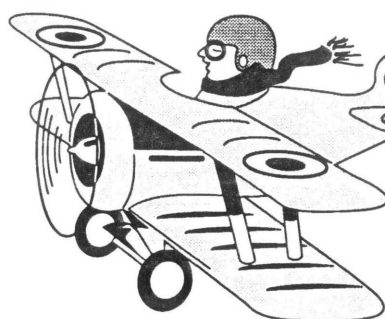
Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

January - February 1992

Vol.3, Number 3



**January is Annual
Renewal Month!!!**

CAN WE RELAX NOW?

We thank all those who have supported us in the past and **WE STILL NEED YOUR SUPPORT** to help us maintain our vigilant watch for the right to choose safe and legal abortion.

After *Roe v. Wade*, we closed the lobby offices and went home. A **MISTAKE!** Every year *Roe* was challenged in the Supreme Court. We are within one Supreme Court justice of an overturn. The '89 Webster and '92 Casey decisions coupled with the Thomas confirmation were major Right to Life Victories. We're a little too close for comfort.

THEY'RE FANATICAL — WE'RE NOT

The religious right will not take the election losses lying down. Their new strategy is for them to "fly stealth," just below radar so you don't know their agenda as they run for school boards and other local/state offices.

Voter education on candidates and the Choice issue is more important than ever.

CHOICE WAS A WINNING ISSUE!

Locally, we worked hard for Pro-Choice candidates. Six of our eight State and Federal representatives are now Pro-Choice. Last year it was 4 of 7. Our group worked the phones, got out the vote, did a Voter ID Project, sent out voters' guides, paraded as the "Supremes for Choice" in robes and wigs and educated the public via this newsletter. Good Work!

CELEBRATE!

It feels like Christmas everyday since the election!

- Maryland codified *Roe v. Wade*
- Arizona rejected anti-choice legislation 2 to 1
- 25% of Republican women who voted for Clinton did so for Choice
- Arlen Specter learned about sexual harassment
- 4 new female Pro-Choice Senators

- 24 new female Pro-Choice Representatives
- Repeal of Gag Rule
- Tentative go-ahead on fetal tissue and RU 486 research
- Increased family planning funding? (1981 to 1991 — 67% decrease was experienced in real dollars)
- Possible reversal of Mexico City policy? (an international "gag rule" for private family planning agencies that receive U.S. aid)
- Possible reversal of abortion policy in military and in Washington, D.C.
- Hyde & Helms Amendments?
- FOCA?
- Contraceptive research increased?
- End of 2/3 rule in U.S. Legislature.



LOCAL CHOICE COVERAGE IS POOR

The Cortland Women's Clinton-Gore Torchlight Parade on Main St. on October 28 did not get reported as a Women's march in the Cortland Standard. Yet all across the country Democratic women marched for their candidates the same night. Nor did 9 black-robed, white-wigged "Supremes for Choice" who led the parade receive mention in the article. Nor did the huge "Cortland Coalition for Choice" banner raised on high above the participant's heads merit recognition. The photo featured the only male speaker among the numerous women speakers.

BEST WAYS TO COMMUNICATE

1. Postcard
2. Personal Letter
3. Telephone call
4. Public Opinion message or Mailgram (800) 325-6000
5. Personal visit

LOCAL

City of Cortland

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
1	Gary Thomas	753-6132
2	Ken Tobin	753-7417
3	Bill Cheetham	753-3474
4	Andrea Marciano	753-8510
5	Sam Ferro	756-6372
6	Joe Discenza	753-9582
7	Dan Tagliente	753-6385
8	Greg Leach	753-0707

Cortland County Legislature

<u>Official</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Russell Teeter	753-0075
Mary Contento	753-8678
Skip Boice	756-8109
Marian Meiczinger	753-0145
Nelson Wright	749-4205
Dick Tupper	753-6206
Carletta Edwards	753-0244
Robert Share	753-7382
George Poole	842-6392
Ted Law	863-3883
Steve Harrington	753-1032
Sandy Price	835-6711
Ray Homer	849-6008
Max Stoker	749-3794
Ron Van Dee	753-1328
Mary Hartnett	753-8565
Tom Williams	756-8813
Frank Barbieri	836-6281
Carleton Potter	749-4134

New York State Government

<u>Pro-Choice</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address & Telephone #</u>
		<u>Rating</u>
+	Senator James Seward	
	809 LOB Albany, 12247 (518) 455-3131	
+	Assembly Marty Luster	
	628 LOB Albany, 12248 (518) 455-5444	
+	Assembly Daniel J. Fessenden	
	LOB Albany, 12248 (518) 455-4100	
	Mayor Mario Cuomo	
	State Capital, Albany,	

SAVE! SAVE!

Federal Government

- + President Bill Clinton
The White House, Washington, D. C. 20500
(202) 456-1111
- Congress James Walsh
1238 Longworth House, Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515 (315) 423-5657
(202) 225-3701
- + Senator Daniel Moynihan
464 Russell Senate Office Bldg.,
Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-4451
- Senator Alfonse D'Amato
520 Hart Office Bldg. Washington,
D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6542

Media

- Cortland Standard
110 Main St., Cortland, NY 756-5665
- Syracuse Post Standard and Herald American
81 Main St., Cortland, NY 753-6795
- N.Y. Times
229 West 43rd St. NY, NY 10036 (212) 556-1234
- ABC
2040 Ave. of the Stars, Century City, Ca 90067
- Robert Iger, President
- USA Network
1230 Ave of the Americas NY, NY 10020
- TBS Ted Turner Chair
1 CNN Center Atlanta, Ga. 30348
- CNN, Tom Johnson, President
1 CNN, Center Atlanta, Ga. 30348
- Lifetime Television, Thomas Burchill, CEO
36-12 35th Ave. Astoria, NY 11106
- C-Span, (202) 629-2525
- CBS News
West 57th St. NY, NY (212) 975-4321
- NBC News
Rockefeller Center, NY, NY 10034 (212) 664-4444
- ABC News 77 West 76 St. NY, NY (212) 456-7777
- Syracuse New Times, 1415 W. Genesee St.,
Syracuse, NY 13204, (315) 422-7011 / (900-370-2010)
- Public Radio-WCNY Ch. 8, 506 Old Liverpool Rd,
Liverpool, NY (315) 453-2424
- WXHC, 12 S. Main St., Homer, NY 749-9942
- WYYS/WKRT & YES FM, 292 Tompkins St,
Cortland, NY 756-2828
- Sammons Access Channel, 756-2500

POLITICAL OBSERVATION — Perot

Perot voters were equally split between would-be Bush supporters and would-be Clinton supporters. Perot supporters were Pro-Choice and anti-religious right. "If the fundamentalist right hold sway in the coming battle for the soul of the Republican party, Mr. Perot's followers could easily go elsewhere." NYT 11/5/92

CHOICE BITS

- Phyllis Schlafly, president of the conservative Eagle Forum chides Hillary Clinton for thinking that children should have the same legal status in our society as adults — oops, except when it comes to fetuses.

- After the 1989 Romanian revolution, the abortion/contraceptive bans were lifted. The maternal mortality rate fell 50% during the 1st year.

- State monies for Prevention of Unwanted Teen pregnancies \$21 M.

- State monies for Support of Mothers and Children \$1.46 B. FPA Oct '92

- Medical facilities and the justices in Roe v. Wade measure gestational age from the first day of the last menstrual period. In reality fertilization occurs about 2 weeks after this date. Then implantation occurs 4-5 days later. Thus, when a pregnancy is reported to be 8 weeks gestation only 6 weeks have elapsed since fertilization and 5 weeks since implantation.

CHOICE QUOTES

"No woman wants an abortion as she wants an ice cream cone or a Porsche. She wants an abortion as an animal caught in a trap wants to gnaw off its own leg."

Frederica Mathewes-Green

"The perception of power is power."

Carol Reichert

"Your check book is your biography."

RELIGIOUS RIGHT SAVORS DEFEAT

They conceded that the election was a disappointment especially after the prominent place they had at the Republican Convention. (Buchanan even bumped Reagan). But they vowed to work harder. "We now have another front-burner issue (homosexuality) in addition to protecting the unborn," said Rev. Lou Sheldon, chair of the Traditional Values Coalition (25,000 member churches). "This may be a blessing in disguise. We will fight harder. We will double in size." NYT 11/5/92

ADOLESCENT KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES ABOUT ABORTION

A focus-group of adolescents from cities across the United States revealed that they lacked accurate knowledge about abortion and the laws governing it. Most expressed erroneous beliefs about abortion, describing it as medically dangerous, emotionally damaging and widely illegal. The study also revealed that anti-abortion views, conservative morality and religious beliefs were the primary sources of these adolescents' attitudes toward abortion. In general, the participants in the study said they were personally opposed to abortion, but supported its continued legality as a woman's choice. Although most of the teenagers expressed positive feelings toward parents, they did not feel that mandatory parental involvement would be helpful and in some cases would cause harm. (Family Planning Perspectives, 24:52, 1992)

WALSH REPLACES BOEHLERT

We have lost Pro-Choice representation in Congress as Rep. James Walsh, R Onondaga-Cortland won in a redistricted race over Pro-Choice, Rhea Jezer. Walsh collected the 1992 Pro-Life Award for all his votes against Choice.

WHITE HOUSE GOES TOO FAR

The electorate rejected the Bush invasion of our clinics, our research laboratories and our bedrooms. Bush surrounded himself with too many "white bread" advisors. He lacked women in his inner circle and the lack of diversity in the mix of advice probably lost him the election. "The place where we really got killed was in the suburbs, where Republican women left us," said one Bush Campaign official who believes that it was a mistake to veto the family leave bill given the party's unyielding anti-abortion stance.

RENEW! RENEW! RENEW! RENEW! RENEW!

CHOICE FACTS

- 26% of all U.S. babies were born to single women in 1988. That's up 18% since 1980.
- 1.7 million pregnancies occur in the U.S. each year as a result of contraceptive failure.
- 1.8 million pregnancies occur annually for women who use no birth control.
- Birth control works! 260 unintended pregnancies per 1000 women are prevented.
- \$25 billion in 1990 supports families begun by teen moms. (Medicaid, Food Stamps AFDC only)
- Babies born to teens in 1989 will cost U.S. taxpayers \$6 billion over the next 20 years.
- 25 years ago only 4 states had legalized abortion.
- The single largest voting block in the nation consists of white males - 37 million of them cast votes in 1988, at least 2 to 1 for George Bush. This highly prized segment of the electorate is pandered to by Republicans and Democrats.

ANITA HILL'S COAT TAILS LONGER THAN CLINTON'S

by Stephanie Dauley

On November 18, 1992 Peggy Murphy, a political science professor, spoke at the YWCA on the presidential election's impact on women. Women accounted for 54% of voters; Their vote was 46% Clinton, 37% Bush and 17% Perot. The election brought more women into government. For instance, 6% of the Senate is now women, including the first African American women in the Senate. The House is now approximately 11% women.

Murphy feels there were two main motivations for women to seek office. First, is the outcome of the Clarence Thomas and Anita Hill hearing. Secondly, women were prompted by the Casey abortion decision in Pennsylvania.

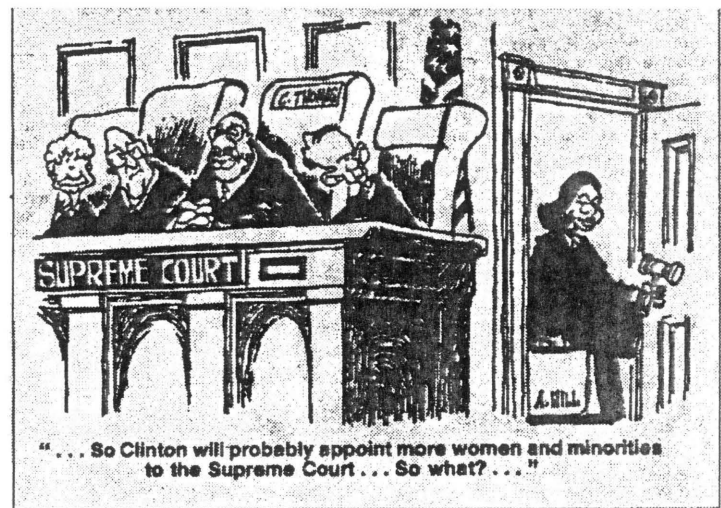
All in all the new Clinton/Gore team may prove very beneficial to women. They are Pro-Choice and advocates for RU 486 research, affirmative action, family leave and equal pay for women.

GRACIOUS, THANKS AND MERCI BEAUCOUP TO:

- Rhea for mailing
- Ruth for research
- Pat for writing
- Bill for mailing list maintenance
- Sociology students of Dr. Richard Kendrick for their Pro-Choice participation and Voter ID project (especially Tracy & Stephanie)

MAY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS!

Think of candidates for Cortland School Board -- several seats are open. For the past 3 years a RTL candidate has run. Only in 1991 were we victorious.



Bill Schorr
The Kenosha City Star
United Nations Contributor

RENEW! RENEW!

CALENDAR

- • Jan 22, Celebrate Roe v. Wade 20th Anniversary - Rocci's Happy Hour, 5 p.m.
- • Jan 25 & 26, "The Politics of Morality: Impact on Women's Lives" Family Planning
- • Jan 28, Albany Conference.
- • Jan 30, Clarkston

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045
March - April 1993
Vol.3, Number 4

LOCALS CELEBRATE



LOCALS CELEBRATE!

We rounded up the usual suspects to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Roe v. Wade on Jan. 22 at Rocci's Restaurant. Some came in "hats for choice." Some people were new, some were veterans, and all were jubilant.

We had even greater cause for celebration because on that same day Clinton, with a stroke of his pen:

- lifted the ban on fetal tissue research
- allowed abortions to be performed for military personnel overseas
- lifted the import ban on RU-486, the French abortion pill (also a cancer treatment)
- erased the Gag Rule which prohibited the mention of abortion as an option to unplanned pregnancy in federally funded clinics that serve teens and low income women.

What a difference an election day makes! Some sanity is restored!

EDITORIAL - CHRISTIAN RIGHT IS TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

We are worried about the following:

- The prime time GOP convention rant by Pat Buchanan and Pat Robertson.
- 12 State Republican parties have been taken over by religious right leadership (among them are KA, VA, MN). They systematically organized with Voter ID projects and guides.
- Randy Terry sent 37,000 letters the Sunday before election stating "a vote for Bill Clinton is a vote against GOD."
- 750,000 last minute voters guides from the Christian Coalition kept Jesse Helms from almost certain defeat.
- The Christian Right runs stealth candidates — we don't.
- In November 92, congressional candidates with known connections to the Christian Coalition won 41% of their contests. Also 1000 new Christian Right people won school board elections in '92.
- "As the religious right gains more and more ground in local government, it will be able to advance its conservative program of opposing abortion and laws guaranteeing the rights of women and homosexuals, seeking the removal of certain books from school libraries and pressing for school prayer, abstinence only education and the teaching of creationism."

NYT 11/21/92 p1

- Randy Terry's lawyer (anti-choice) was just elected to a family court judgeship in Tioga County
- Cortland's City GOP chairman is Gary Whitmarch, member of the former New Life Church and defeated candidate for city counsel in 1991. Cortland Standard 2/25/93 p3.
- Mark Traphagen, a prominent elder of the New Life Church was beaten back by Charles Wilson for the GOP's mayoral nomination in 1991. ibid.

1992: BREAKTHROUGHS FOR WOMEN

- We tripled the number of elected women in the U.S. Senate
- Increased by 68% the number of women in the House of Representatives
- 26% increase in women elected to statewide offices
- 10% increase in women in state legislatures.

CORTLAND SCHOOL BOARD NEEDS A FEW GOOD CANDIDATES

There are three openings on the school board this year and we need you.

Recall the controversy last year. During a Meet the Candidate Forum, Don Spaulding was the only candidate who agreed with Tom Lickona's concerns and affirmed that counselors should breach confidentiality when a student confides a pregnancy. Therefore, he became the recipient of a "Vote Dan" phone campaign by callers, some of whom represented themselves as members of St. Mary's Church. One call that we know of attempted to "expose" another candidate as "ProChoice and a member of the Jacobus Center." That candidate won big (550 votes) as did the candidate this newsletter worked for and endorsed. Spaulding lost by only 36 votes and he beat the incumbent!

This was the first time in three years that a candidate offered by Right-to-Life (RTL) forces in Cortland DID NOT WIN.

School sexuality education including birth control, STDs and HIV/AIDS instructions are on the RTL hit list. Watch for RTL's new strategy of Stealth Candidates (flying just below radar). In small turn-out elections, small organized groups can have a large impact.

SAVOR THE VICTORY — BUT DON'T LET DOWN THE GUARD

Never forget our Reagan/Bush Supreme Court. It will be quite a while before we have a more liberal court. The Webster ('89) and Casey ('92) decisions said that abortion is not a fundamental right.

One hundred days cannot undo the damage done by 12 years. We need the Freedom of Choice Act. N.Y. does not need forced delays (24 hour waiting period) or government scripted medical counseling (misinformed consent) as dictated in the Casey decision now in effect in Pennsylvania.

Justice Harry Blackman on Casey Decision:

"I fear for the darkness as four Justices anxiously await the single vote necessary to extinguish the light."

Good night, Justice Thurgood Marshall,
prince of justice, we will miss you.

SUPREME COURT

In the pipeline to overturn Roe v. Wade are cases from Guam*, Louisiana*, North Dakota, Missouri, Utah* and Mississippi. Those with *s concern outright bans on abortion — it would become illegal! Others impose severe restrictions.

So the Supreme Court is on the brink of forcing those least qualified to become parents to deliver babies, even when the pregnancy is the result of rape, incest, the bedding down of a mentally retarded woman, a drug induced one night stand or a simple mistake of passion.

IMPACT OF LEGALIZED ABORTION ON TEEN CHILD BEARING IN NYC

When NY abortion laws changed in July, 1970 a study was initiated by the American Journal of Public Health. By 1987 they determined that births to Black teens fell 19% and to White teens, 14%. The authors suggest that there would have been almost 4000 more births to teens in NY city in 1988 and 1989 if abortion was not legally available.

Nationwide what would be the impact of the Federal government insisting that 400,000 more teens give birth to unplanned babies each year?

ROE V. WADE LAWYER SPEAKS AT SUNY

Speaking here on Oct. 28, 1992 Sarah Weddington chided students into leadership roles. "If you see something wrong in the world, fix it." Graduating from college at 19 and law school at 21, she took on Texas abortion law in 1969 because it was illegal to have or refer for an abortion. She never dreamt that this case would go to the Supreme Court or that at age 26, she would be the lawyer presenting it. She took on the case for two reasons: a personal history of illegal abortion in Mexico and she was unemployed.

Later when she was practicing law and putting her husband through law school, she was not able to get a credit card in her own name because she was a woman. She ran for state legislature and was successful in having an equal credit bill passed.

Times are changing she said with medical school classes being 50% women and the same for law school. But she spoke in private conversation of the need for diligence against the religious right despite the outcome of the November election.

FDA MAY ADMIT RU 486

On 12/16/92 the FDA released a letter stating that it may accept the European clinical trials as adequate for their review process. Now FDA Roussel Uclaf, developer of RU 486 or a US company to apply for permission to market the drug. FDA claims to be non-political and that it has not changed its position with this letter.

Bush had banned import of RU 486 by individuals and the Supreme Court upheld it.

As accessibility to surgical abortion diminishes in the country and as clinic violence escalates, RU 486, your time has come.

Ithaca Journal 12/17/92

FETAL TISSUE FOR PARKINSON'S

"I'm reminded of the episode in 'The Wizard of Oz' when the house falls on the witch," says Dr. William Langston, a California Parkinson's specialist speaking of the Clinton promise to lift the Reagan-Bush ban on fetal tissue research. "All of a sudden, everything has turned from black and white to color."

A 11/92 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine reviews the successes of private and foreign small scale studies and results. 400,000 to one million people suffer from Parkinson's disease and its crippling effects.

Newsweek 12/7/92

NEW STUDENT INTERN

I join your coalition as a political science student intern. I am a secondary social studies major with a concentration in history, and a minor in political science and African American Studies.

I am also a Resident Assistant on the college campus. Professor Carol McPhee, the head of Student Government Internships, placed me well because I feel the experience I'm gaining working with the Coalition for Choice is valuable for my future.

My experience working on voter awareness and education will help me learn how to combat voter apathy, which can only happen if there are informed citizens.

I was able to attend the Family Planning Advocates Annual Lobbying Day on January 24. While I was there we joined the statewide Pro-Choice YWCA delegation to discuss our issues with the governor's office staff. Cortland members were surprised to learn from the Buffalo delegation that there are still blockades of one hundred people every Saturday at local health clinics. Assemblyman Marty Luster was very open to our concerns and took a great deal of time asking us questions. I am very excited about this internship and welcome any suggestions for further involvement.

Kristen M. Edmonds

BRAY VS. ALEXANDRIA WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINIC

On Jan. 13 the Supreme Court ruled that a previous federal court decision cannot be used to prevent violence at family planning clinics.

An 1891 statute had become the basis for a federal injunction to protect women from Operation Rescue blockades and was effective until this latest Supreme Court decision.

The new ruling holds that the blockades do not discriminate against women as a class; therefore, it did not fit under the umbrella of the 1891 statute that pertained to black discrimination by the K.K.K. The ruling also held that Operation Rescue blockades were not preventing people from traveling between states, which makes the interstate travel clause irrelevant.

The effect of this ruling is that the protection of clients and clinics is up to the states.

Although the Bray decision weakens protection against blockades, the previous injunctions on blockades are still in force. This ruling does not give O.R. the right to blockade health clinics. Laws such as criminal trespass, disorderly conduct, obstruction of government affairs and resisting

arrest can be used to prosecute blockaders.

Some states have enacted laws making blockades of any health care facilities a crime. The Cook/John bill will assure the right to receive health benefits without harassment in New York State if passed. Contact your state legislators. Pro-choice support at clinics being targeted will also help deter harassment of women and O.R. actions. Summer is just around the corner!

CHOICE THANKS C-SPAN

Coverage of women's issues by C-SPAN was outstanding in the past year. There was extensive coverage of seminars, press conferences, news briefings by NOW and other groups, and talks by women. Please thank C-SPAN with a short note (refer to the list of addresses included in the last newsletter). Also, if you turn on C-SPAN or C-SPANII and find a program of interest, please tape it for our archives. Videotapes are a great educational tool.

TO SECURE OUR RIGHTS

Suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt outlined the "Winning Plan" for women's vote at a Sept. 1916 convention as she addressed participants from 36 states. On Aug. 26, 1920 the 19th Amendment becomes part of the Constitution.

But upon reflection Catt calculated that it took more than those four years. There were:

- 57 years of campaigning
- 56 referenda to male voters
- 480 efforts to get state legislatures to submit suffrage amendments
- 277 campaigns to get state party conventions to include women's suffrage planks
- 47 campaigns to get state constitutional conventions to write women's suffrage into state constitutions
- 30 campaigns to get presidential party conventions to adopt women's suffrage planks in party platforms
- 19 successive campaigns with 19 successive Congresses.

OPINION MAKERS SEEK CCFC'S OPINION

The State Republican Family Committee called us to seek our opinion as to whether Assembly candidate Dan Fessenden was pro-choice enough to win their endorsement and funding.

We referred them to the questionnaire done by the Cortland Women's Coalition. That showed Fessenden supported choice but not medicaid funding for poor women's abortions. Also, he favored parental notification but not consent for abortions for minors (*minors see no difference between notification and consent and regard both as onerous*).

The New York Office of People for the American Way called after the election to ask us to identify local people who seek public office as "stealth" candidates. These people have a definite agenda — usually religious right — but keep it secret during their campaign.

We will monitor the upcoming School Board elections in May and November elections for mayor, city council and county legislature. The Women's Coalition is planning a candidate survey on women's issues for all candidates.

Both State Senate candidates sought to have an insert in our mailings. Rhea Jezer (who ran for Congress against James Walsh) and State Assemblyman Marty Luster requested access to our 500 household mailing list in order to connect with pro-choice voters.

These are great examples of grassroots organizing and show that our work has not gone unnoticed!

LIES OF OUR TIMES

Adopted from Time 10/5/92 and Family Planning Advocates Newsletter

They said:

- President Bush: "I would support my granddaughter's decision to terminate her pregnancy and the decision would be hers alone."
- Dan Quayle said the same about his daughter.
- First Lady Bush said abortion is a personal choice.
- GOP - a big tent to accomodate even those who favor abortion at will.

They did:

- No federal funds for abortions
- No Medicaid even for poor women who were victims of rape/incest
- Publicly urged high court to overturn Roe
- Submitted legal briefs supporting Webster, Casey and Bray
- Employers no longer obliged to pay for health insurance benefits for abortions
- No local tax \$ for abortions allowed in Washington, D.C.
- Ideological appointments to the courts
- Justice Dept. actions support Operation Rescue blockades
- Squeal Rule proposed - parents told if kids attend birth control clinics 1983
- Gag Rule proposed - no mention of abortion in birth control clinics
- No RU 486 research or import
- No fetal tissue research
- No national Sex Surveys re. AIDS
- Birth control research \$s decreased by 1/2
- Title X (Family Planning Federal \$s) funds cut 67%
- 9 Anti-choice vetoes by President Bush

CHOICE FACT

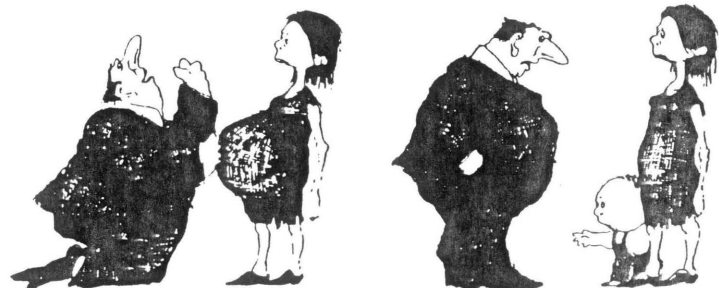
Only one third of the over 5 million sexually active teens aged 12-17 use birth control all the time. Twenty-seven percent never do.

In a SUCC Health Class Survey on Abortion the students were asked what they thought about abortion. One student wrote "I believe that minorities don't have enough of them."

NOTE: 300,000 women in 20 countries have used RU 486 for abortion.

GRACIOUS, THANKS and MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

To Ruth for mailing, typing, computerizing
To Kristen for serving as our intern this semester
To Tracey for financial management
To Bill for mailing list maintenance.
To Pat for communicating thanks to our contributors
All of You wonderful people who dared not take a little progress for granted. Thanks for your recent generous contributions.



MIRACLE OF LIFE

SMILING LITTLE
WELFARE CHEAT

1992

CALENDAR

- May 4, Just 36 votes made the difference in the 1992 Cortland School Board Election. VOTE!!
- Nov 2, City, County Election.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Please make checks payable to:
Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385
Cortland, NY 13045

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$10.00 for mailings _____

Other Contributions _____

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045
May - June 1993
Vol.3, Number 5

VOTE

MAY 4TH

12 NOON - 9 PM

CITY SCHOOL BOARD

CORTLAND SCHOOL BOARD HAS 3 OPENINGS -- 3 CANDIDATES

The three candidates (2 incumbents and one new) run unopposed this year because of the lack of interest. Barring a major write-in vote, John Poli, Chris Place and Tony DeSanta are virtual shoo-ins on May 4.

Place and DeSanta are good on the confidentiality issues that arose several years ago around teen pregnancy counseling. Poli is not. Place did a great deal of research on the Compact for Learning and the critical issues that face the district. Her thoughtful statement and answers at the Meet the Candidates Forum on April 19 made her stand out against the other candidates. A Bullet Vote --- vote for one candidate only -- Chris Place would make an important statement. We want quality candidates.

FERNANDEZ URGES SCRUTINY OF CONSERVATIVES

New York City Schools Chancellor Fernandez, whose contract the City Board of Education recently voted not to renew, warned about the coalition which worked together for his ouster. The alliance between the Roman Catholic Archdiocese and Rev. Pat Robertson worked during Fernandez's tenure to oppose his plans to distribute condoms in schools, introduce an AIDS curriculum in elementary schools, and teach tolerance for homosexuals.

Such a coalition, which was acknowledged by the two groups, is, according to Fernandez, an issue that his "colleagues all around the country are telling [him] they are very concerned about." Asserting that he had been a victim of the conservative religious groups who sought to influence the upcoming school board elections, he warned to scrutinize conservatives' candidates closely.

The New York Times, April 22, 1993. (p. B3).

PHYSICIAN SLAIN BY DEMONSTRATOR

Dr. David Gunn was shot in the back by Rescue America (RA) member, Michael Griffen on Wednesday, March 10. On the previous Sunday, Griffen had publicly prayed for Gunn in church. The act was unique in its extremism but not in its malice. Gunn had been the subject of RA's "Wanted Dead or Alive" posters distributed throughout the state. Protesters outside a Melbourne, Florida clinic reportedly cheered upon the news of Gunn's death. RA members solicit funds to support Griffen's wife and children. Pat Bachman blames the violence on Pro-Choice attempts to contain their demonstrations and their frustrations with a Pro-Choice administration after 12 years. This murder is not an isolated incident as most RTLers claim. They scramble to disassociate themselves from this deviant "nutcake," Griffen.

There have been 983 reported episodes of violence against clinics and staff since 1977. 1991-1992 property damage against clinics was \$1.66 million.

Randy Terry of Operation Rescue (responsible for 500 blockades and 32,000 arrests) says that these 'peaceful' (illegal) means haven't worked, so violence is born out of frustration. Joe Foreman, Missionary to the Pre-born and Don Treshman of Rescue America imply that the murder was justified because babies' lives were saved. These peaceful, prayerful people have gone too far.

Excerpts from Pro-Choice Network Newsletter April 1993 Buffalo

TRUST FUND FOR DR. GUNN'S Son and Daughter

David L. Gunn Children's Educational Fund
c/o First National Bank and Trust
230 Mary Esther Boulevard
Mary Esther, Florida 32569

FREE CONGRESS FOUNDATION HAS OWN POLITICAL SATELLITE NETWORK

Clarence Thomas and David Souter were examples of "stealth candidates" re the abortion issue. We were led to believe that they had no opinion on the topic. Those who orchestrated this Thomas victory by harassing wavering Democratic Senators with phone calls are members of the Free Congress Foundations. Paul Weyrich, the master of religious right wing direct mail fund-raising, is president. They have Nat'l Empowerment Television, NET, a satellite network that beams the conservative agenda to 90 congressional districts in the U.S. They have generated millions of calls from their constituents:

- to oppose lifting the ban on gays in the military - they say Clinton will "go down in history as our homosexual president."
- to eliminate Senate committees on aging, children and hunger
- to oppose abortion
- to support "family values" and school choice

"GOD HATES FAGS: ROMANS 9:13"

A preacher picketed AIDS funerals in Topeka and Wichita proclaiming the above quote until the Kansas legislature stopped him. The Rev. Fred Phelps still campaigns daily outside churches and restaurants condemning "filthy sodomists"

Cortland Standard 4/9/93

(Ed. Note) The Religious Right now have abortion and gays on the front burners.

AMA CONDEMNS ABORTION ACCESS LIMITATIONS

Even one week of delay after the sixth week of pregnancy increases the risk of complications by 50%. (CDC)

"Mandatory waiting periods and notification statutes, a reduction in the numbers and geographic availability of abortion providers and the reduction in the number of physicians who are trained and willing to perform 1st and 2nd trimester abortions have the potential to threaten the safety of induced abortion." Waiting periods increase health risks by delaying medical care. AMA notes specific financial and geographic barriers:

Half the women obtaining abortions past 15 weeks are delayed because they have difficulties making financial arrangements.

In 1988, 50% of all metropolitan areas in US and 93% of all non-metropolitan areas in US have no abortion providers (1988)

The physicians who knew what it was like before Roe v. Wade are retiring because of physician and clinic harassment. New physicians are less inclined to provide abortion services.

DID YOU KNOW

Compulsory Birth Used as Torture

An estimated 12,000 women and girls, mostly Muslims, have been raped by Serbian fighters and many held captive for months to prevent abortion, according to USA TODAY. The rapists used such taunts as, "Now you will have to have Serbian babies the rest of your lives." Some of those released have been able to obtain abortions as late as the nineteenth week of pregnancy, but abortions have been difficult to get in predominantly Catholic Croatia.

WITHOUT ACCESS, THERE IS NO RIGHT TO LEGAL ABORTION

North Dakota — there are no doctors in the state who will do abortions. There is one abortion clinic and physicians fly in from other states such as Minnesota.

ROBERT SCHENCK SENTENCED

For those of us who went to Buffalo a year ago to help defend women's clinics against would-be blockaders, a recent news report was of special interest.

The Rev. Robert Schenck, an organizer of the blockades, was fined \$1000 and sentenced to nine months in jail for his resisting arrest conviction and fifteen days on a disorderly conduct charge. Calling him a "publicity hound," Justice Sherwood Bestry chastised him by telling Schenck he was "lucky and the people of this town are lucky that a riot did not ensue because of [his] conduct."

Cortland Standard 4/20/93

RU 486 TO US

A major roadblock to an abortion pill for American women fell recently when its French manufacturer agreed to license the drug to the Population Council, a not-for-profit research organization in New York. For years its manufacturer has refused to allow it to be made available in the U.S., because of fear of boycott of its other products by anti-abortion groups.

The Population Council* said it would sponsor an application to the F.D.A. for approval to market the drug and would raise up to \$4 million for a clinical trial of RU-486. Even so, supporters say that it may be at least two years before the drug can be approved.

New York Times (4/25/93)

*The council produces no other product and is therefore not vulnerable to RTL boycotts.



CHOICE QUOTES

1. The fact that you have religious freedom because I have religious freedom is a "constitutional bargain." This compact is broken when there is no compromise, no reciprocity.

Anthony Lewis NYT Quoting Thurgood Marshall

2. "The brutal murder of Dr. David Gunn rips the mask off Operation Rescue and its affiliate groups once and for all. Such groups are not part of the legitimate civil rights movement. They are not non-violent. They are not exercising free speech."

Sharon Fawley NOW -NYS

3. "Pennsylvania is two big cities with Alabama in the middle." Characterizing the state after the Casey decision

James Carvel, Clinton advisor

4. "I hope you realize that, without NARAL's long standing leadership, the day America elected a Pro-Choice president and the days of candidates proudly displaying their Pro-Choice credentials would never have arrived."

Senator Barbara Boxer to Kate Michelman (NARAL)

5. "Even though we have Bill Clinton in the White House, we still have Randall Terry roaming the streets."

Saul Weprin

6. "Imagine this conversation — 'Daddy, you remember that child that you think of as an angel, that child with 90's and 100's from school. That child has had sex. That child is pregnant and I want you to give me permission for an abortion'."

NY Assemblyman Roberto Ramirez

BYRON WHITE RESIGNS SUPREME COURT

It is hoped that the 5 to 4 decisions that have weakened Roe v. Wade recently will take a different direction once White is replaced by a less conservative Clinton appointee.

WRITE TO RENO

Are you as outraged as we are with the murder of Dr. Gunn and the subsequent intimation that is even felt locally?

Write to: Attorney General

Janet Reno

Dept. of Justice

10th and Constitution Ave. N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20530

Urge her to carry through on her promise to do everything she can do to pursue an appropriate federal response.

CHOICE SCORE BOARD - 1992 ELECTION

US Senate	53 members are Pro-Choice — still a majority!
US House	212 member are Pro-Choice +27 Need 218 for Majority
Governors	31 are Pro-Choice — +4
NY Congressional Delegation	Net gain of 1
NY Senate	Still anti-choice by 1 or 2 votes
NY Assembly	Majority is Pro-Choice +5

Source: Voters for Choice

PSYCHIC TRAUMA OF ABORTION

Right to Lifers and Dan Quayle in past debates insisted on the existence of a Post-Abortion Trauma Syndrome. Univ. of Chicago Psychiatrist Dr. Nada Stolland says, not so. Her research showed that some women suffer temporary stress, guilt and sadness. These diminish over time. British researchers found that psychosis occurred after delivery at the rate of 1.7 cases/1000 and after abortion, 0.3/1000. Stollands analysis published in JAMA reminds us of Dr. C. Everett Koop's search for damaging effects of abortion at the request of President Reagan. He found none.

Herald American 10/25/92

HYDE AMENDMENT LIFTED?

Clinton is proposing to lift the 1977 Hyde Amendment which had prevented federal funds from being used for Medicaid funded abortions. Currently, even a victim of rape or incest dependent on Medicaid could not obtain an abortion unless she found private charity.

CORTLAND STANDARD LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 1993

ANTI-CHOICE	6
PRO-CHOICE	2

SUPREME COURT'S BRAY DECISION ALLOWS MOB RULE

The Reagan-Bush court affirmed that clinic blockaders "define their 'rescues' not with reference to women but as physical intervention 'between abortionists and the innocent victims'."

GOOD NEWS








































































































































































The State Budget contains an extra \$2 million for family planning services (read to prevent the need for abortion) for fiscal year 1993-1994. Hooray!

EMILY'S LIST IS BIGGEST '92 CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTOR

Emily's List is a donor network whereby individuals join for \$100 and receive recommendations of viable Pro-Choice Democratic women candidates. Members then send checks to these candidates. Emily's 24,000 members contributed \$6.2 M to Senate and House Candidates this election cycle. The biggest Political Action Committee (PAC) contributor in the 1990 elections was the National Association of Realtors with \$3,097,000 to Senate and House candidates.

Women in the House	
1972	14
1987	12
Emily's list begins	
1992	36

Abortion Restrictions State-By-State

Alabama	     	Montana	   
Alaska	 	Nebraska	    
Arizona	 	Nevada	   
Arkansas	 	New Hampshire	 
California	None	New Jersey	 
Colorado	  	New Mexico	 
Connecticut	None	New York	None
Delaware	  	North Carolina	None
District of Columbia	 	North Dakota	     
Florida	  	Ohio	     
Georgia	 	Oklahoma	 
Hawaii	None	Oregon	None
Idaho	  	Pennsylvania	     
Illinois	  	Rhode Island	   
Indiana	   	South Carolina	    
Iowa	   	South Dakota	   
Kansas	    	Tennessee	  
Kentucky	    	Texas	 
Louisiana	     	Utah	     
Maine	  	Vermont	None
Maryland	  	Virginia	  
Massachusetts	  	Washington	None
Michigan	     	West Virginia	     
Minnesota	   	Wisconsin	    
Mississippi	     	Wyoming	   
Missouri	     		

Source: NARAL



- States where both houses of congress favor criminalizing abortion.



- States whose governors favor criminalizing abortion.



- States where certain health care providers are prohibited from giving advice or referrals regarding abortion.



- States with husband notification laws (unenforced).



- States with informed consent provisions that require doctors to inform women of fetal development. These states can also require a 24 hr. waiting period.



- States that prohibit the use of public facilities for abortions or prohibit public employees from participating in an abortion.



- States that prohibit Medicaid funding for abortion unless the woman's life is in danger.



- States with laws that require abortion-seeking minors to notify one or more parent or obtain a judicial waiver.

GRACIOUS, THANKS and MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

To Ruth for computerizing
To Kristen for serving as our intern this semester
To Tracey for financial management
To Bill for mailing list maintenance.
To Pat for writing and communications to our contributors.
All of You wonderful people who made generous contributions.

CALENDAR

- May 4, Just 36 votes made the difference in the 1992 Cortland School Board Election. VOTE!!
- Nov 2, City, County Election.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Please make checks payable to:
Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385
Cortland, NY 13045

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$10.00 for mailings _____

Other Contributions _____

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

Aug. - Sep. 1993
Vol.3, Number 6



LOCALS MEET WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL

Three Cortland Women joined 12 others from Central New York on June 10 to discuss women's issues at the invitation of Attorney General Robert Abrams and his Assistant Attorney General Shelley Maylers.

Pat Shedd, Andrea Marciano and Julia Minoia brought the following concerns to the meeting:

1. No physician in Cortland will accept Medicaid for sterilization or abortion procedures, (see "Abortion Access Declines.")
2. Mid level practitioners should be trained to provide abortion because fewer medical schools offer training and 83% of U.S. counties have no abortion providers.
3. Work to hasten RU - 486 to this country.

Other issues presented related to treatment of women by the court system especially in divorce proceedings, domestic violence and the religious right wing.

HOLLY GREER AWARD REVOKED

There were more letters to the editor of the Cortland Standard on this issue than there were when Smith Corona announced its move to Mexico.

The Catholic Charities Board of Directors chose to present the Father Drumm Community Service Award to retiring YWCA Executive Director, Holly Greer at its annual dinner on June 22. On June 21 the Bishop of Syracuse sent a representative to Cortland to visit Holly to withdraw the impending award. The reason — Holly signed Pro-Choice ads in 1981 and 1990. Holly's husband, the Rev. Bill Greer had received the Father Drumm Award in 1987. He turned in his award the next day saying, "If Holly is not worthy then neither am I."

SEAMLESS GARMENT IS REALLY EMPEROR WITH NO CLOTHES

The moral center of Catholic social teaching is the seamless garment or consistent life ethic according to Tom Lickona. This ethic is put forth by the JustLife Education Fund. It essentially says no war, no capital punishment, no abortion as in the Father Dan Barrigan tradition.

A different picture is presented about "prolife" Congress members when Catholics For A Free Choice analyzed voting records against the JustLife criteria. They found that members of Congress who vote to keep abortion legal and available are generally the same who vote to create conditions that welcome childbearing and childrearing. "Conversely those members who oppose legal abortion also tend

to vote against a range of policies supporting human life, including those which assist women in securing the resources and services they need once they choose to have children. . . JustLife's premise is turned on its head when the abortion issue is removed from its vote tally.

JustLife's own tally (excluding abortion) scored pro choice Senators 46 percentage points higher than anti choice Senators (70 percent to 24 percent). Pro choice Representatives averaged 43 percentage points higher. This held for pro choice and anti choice Catholic Congress members as well.

The Children's Defense Fund (run by Marian Edelman Wright who opposes abortion) scored Congress members on issues of critical concern to our children's future. Again pro choice members voted pro-child by vast margins compared to anti choice members.

The ratings of the American Public Health Association found this same pattern on its issues related to the health and welfare of women, children and families.

These contradictions give the impression that the value of life for Right-to Lifers begins at conception and ends at birth.

U.S. ABORTION STATS — TEENS HAVE FEWER ABORTIONS

Since 1980, the number of abortions reported to the Center for Disease Control has remained stable — less than 5% change each year. In 1989, 1,398,658 were performed:

Abortion Ratio 346/1000 births

Abortion Rate 24/1000 women age 15-44

N.Y. Rate 33/1000 women age 15-44

The rate remained the same as 1987 & 1988. The ratio is higher for black and other minority women and those under 15 years. Most women undergoing abortions are young, white and unmarried with no previous births. 87% are performed in the 1st trimester.

There were 6 abortion related deaths in 1987 with a case fatality rate of 0.4/100,000. Less than 1% of all abortions are done after 21 weeks. 98% by curettage and less than 1.0% by saline injection or prostoglandin.

There has been a steady decrease in the percent of teen women compared to all women obtaining abortions. In 1972 32% of aborters were teens; in '89 it was 24%

Source M.M.W.R. 9/14/92 CDC

ABORTION ACCESS DECLINES IN CORTLAND

State Health Dept. Statistics for Cortland Co.

YEAR	1983	1985	1987	1989	1990
# Abortions- Cortland County women	248	256	244	223	211
% Abortions to Cortland women performed in Cortland	66.5	59.8	50.0	28.3	24.6
% Abortions to Cortland women out of the county	33.5	40.2	50.0	71.7	75.4

ANALYSIS: 1983-1988 Decrease from 4 to 2 OBGYNs in Cortland
1989 OBGYNs stopped taking Medicaid for abortion.
Poor women still get abortions but must leave town to do so.



WOMEN'S COALITION 1993 LOCAL CANDIDATE SURVEY RESULTS

AAUW, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, SUNY WOMEN'S STUDIES COMM., YWCA, ZONTA

1. Local lawmakers make decisions regarding personnel & employment practices. If resources allow, do you support the following concepts or practices?

	MAYOR		CITY COUNCIL															
			W1		W2		W3		W4		W5		W6		W7		W8	
	W A L S H	H E A L E Y	T H O M A S	W I L S O N	T O B I N	B U S H E Y	C H E E T H A M	S T E V E N S	M A R C I A N O	T H O R N T O N	B E R A R D I	F E R R O	S P A U L D I N G	D I S C E N Z A	T A G L I E N T E	H Y D E	B A R L O W	L E A C H
comparable worth	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y				Y	
equal pay for equal work	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y				Y	
flex time	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y		Y		N	N*	Y				Y	
job sharing	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	N*	Y				Y	

2. If resources were available, should city govt. financially support quality day care for its employees?

Y	Y	Y	-	E	Y	Y		Y		N	N	N					Y	
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3. Should city staff health insurance cover the following procedures:

mammography	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		N	Y	Y				Y	
female sterilization	E	N	E	N	Y	Y	Y		Y		N	Y	N				N	
vasectomy	E	N	E	N	Y	Y	Y		Y		N	Y	N				N	
abortion	E	N*	E	Y*	Y*	E	Y*		Y		N	N	N				N	

4. Women in Cortland County have been in the forefront of environmental issues such as LLRW & hospital incineration of medical & non-medical wastes. This county has the highest radon level in homes of any in the state. Should city building codes requires radon resistant new construction?

E	N	-	N	Y	E	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y					Y	
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5. Should the city create a policy that all waste paper generated in city offices be recycled rather than landfilled?

Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		N	Y	Y					Y	
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	--	---	---	---	--	--	--	--	---	--

6. Should the city have a sexual harassment policy in place?

Y	Y*	Y	Y*	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y*	Y					Y	
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7. If a woman is in jail and pregnant, should options counseling be provided to her about abortion, adoption, and parenthood?

E	Y	E	Y	E	Y	Y		Y		N	Y	Y					Y*	
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8. Women continue to enter the workplace in ever increasing numbers. Single parent households have doubled in the past 25 years. What can city government do to assist single parents in the workforce?

TOBIN - (8) Day care, flextime for employees, provide recreation programs. (2) I support quality day care for all citizens not just city employees. I don't think it would be fair to allow day care for city employees only to be supported by tax dollars but I do support using available resources such as community development for quality day care for all citizens. (7) Any woman in jail and pregnant faces very tough decision and should receive counseling but as far as decisions on the rest of her life each case needs to be weighed on its own merits. (3d) Yes for Spontaneous abortion. All of these are currently covered by city employee insurance. (5) This is a current policy to recycle as much as possible.

THOMAS - (8) Child care, any other aid that's feasible. (3) not relevant. (4 & 5) need more information. I have answered questions I feel are applicable at the city level. Issues such as sterilization, abortion, etc. are not pertinent at the local level. I appreciate your efforts and the opportunity to voice my opinion.

BERARDI - (8) Not a thing! Not a government problem!

BARLOW - (8) Research possibility of part time jobs to ease workload so single mothers can work yet still be home at valuable times morn/afternoon/evening with their children. (7) Yes to counseling on adoption and parenthood. Abortion is a personal & religious decision that must not be influenced. (3) I do not know. To answer yes/no w/o opportunity to research the actual benefits puts me at a disadvantage. My abortion answers based solely on my religious values.

CHEETHAM - (8) The two most important ways would be flexible work schedules and support of daycare. (3) abortion under some circumstances. (4) as long as it is not cost prohibitive.

FERRO (1) Flextime & job sharing could be counter productive-further study is needed before I could make y\n decision. (6) providing this is for both sexes. (8) I believe they should be treated as any other city employee.

MARCIANO (8) Gov't and industry should support all parents in the workplace. The recently passed Fam Med Leave policy does not go far enough. 6 wks to bond with a new baby? Enclosed are maternity leave provisions of European countries. We need on site day care.

HEALEY (3d) Limited to rape, etc. (6) Both for men and women!! (8) Quality day care centers be provided by the city.

WILSON (3d) For rape, disease, abuse, but not for convenience. (6) For both males and females. (8) See that better jobs come to Cortland and provide more and better paying jobs for any qualified person.

BUSHEY (3d) Under some circumstances. (4) I need more info on pretesting, costs, requirements, etc. (8) City could assist these and all parents by providing a safe place for our youth to socialize. Outside of the current Youth Bur. Programs. which are outstanding in their variety and availability, there really is no permanent safe place to offer our youth to go to. I believe something could be done in this area, if it were thoroughly researched and actively pursued.

WALSH (3,4,7) Not relevant to city operations. (3) These benefits negotiated thru collective bargaining process. (4) City has adopted NYS Universal building and fire prevention code. \ Nearly impossible to implement local stricter codes. (7) No one in city jail longer than overnight. (8) Continue to work to expand safe affordable day care, as we are currently doing with the Child Dev Center. Support youth services, allow workplace flexibility where possible.

1. Local lawmakers make decisions regarding personnel & employment practices. If resources allow, do you support the following concepts or practices?

COUNTY LEGISLATURE										
LD1	LD2	LD3	LD4	LD5		LD6		LD7	LD8	
T E E T E R	B O I S E	H A R R I N G T O N	H A R T N E T	V A N D E E	C O S I M O	G E B H A R D T	M O O N E Y	C O N T E N T O	R A D M O R E	E D W A R D S

comparable worth		Y	Y			Y	Y		-	
equal pay for equal work		Y	Y			Y	Y		Y	
flex time		-	Y			Y	Y		-	
job sharing		-	Y			Y	Y		-	

2. If resources were available, should county govt. financially support quality day care for its employees?

		-	Y			Y	N		Y	
--	--	---	---	--	--	---	---	--	---	--

3. Should county staff health insurance cover the following procedures:

mammography		Y	Y			Y	Y		Y	
female sterilization		-	Y			E	Y		N*	
vasectomy		-	Y			E	Y		N*	
abortion		-	N			E	Y		N*	

4. Women in Cortland County have been in the forefront of environmental issues such as LLRW & hospital incineration of medical & non-medical wastes. This county has the highest radon level in homes of any in the state. Should county building codes requires radon resistant new construction?

		N	-			E	Y		Y	
--	--	---	---	--	--	---	---	--	---	--

5. Should the county create a policy that all waste paper generated in county offices be recycled rather than landfilled?

		Y*	Y			Y	Y		Y	
--	--	----	---	--	--	---	---	--	---	--

6. Should the county have a sexual harassment policy in place?

		Y	Y			Y	Y		Y*	
--	--	---	---	--	--	---	---	--	----	--

7. If a woman is in jail and pregnant, should options counseling be provided to her about abortion, adoption, and parenthood?

		Y	Y			Y	Y		E	
--	--	---	---	--	--	---	---	--	---	--

8. Women continue to enter the workplace in ever increasing numbers. Single parent households have doubled in the past 25 years. What can county government do to assist single parents in the workplace?

RADMORE -(8) Paid leaves for women employees when health of their children is involved. (7) All options can be considered. No pressure to act one way or another should be used. (6) One has to be careful with this. Individual right must be protected. False accusations and malicious stories can be the ruination of a person's good name and innocence is not always recognized. (3 bcd) This area is a personal decision.

HARTNETT -(8) The biggest concern is babysitting. County should stress a day care ctr. & the importance of flex hours.

GEBHARDT - (3bcd) Are they included now? What is the additional cost if not? Is this a financial question or a moral question? I can't respond on financial ramifications without more information. If financial issues were dealt with I would response that each employee should have the choice of obtaining either b,c or d. (4) I am not familiar with the cost of radon resistant new construction vs. that of post construction means of reducing radon leaks. Without that information as well as documentation to the effectiveness of each it is difficult to respond.

1. Local lawmakers make decisions regarding personnel & employment practices. If resources allow, do you support the following concepts or practices?

LD9		LD10		LD11	L12	LD13		L14	LD15		LD16		LD17	LD18	L19		
SUDOL	DAFOE	MORGAN	WERN	POTTER	BARBIERI	RIOOTTO	MEICZINGER	TUPPER	ATWOOD	STOKER	BENNETT	TINELLI	OSBORNE	LAW	HOMER	PRICE	HEATH

comparable worth	Y		Y	Y			Y			Y							
equal pay for equal work	Y		Y	Y			Y			Y							
flex time	Y		Y	Y			Y			Y							
job sharing	Y		Y	Y			Y			Y							

2. If resources were available, should county govt. financially support quality day care for its employees?

Y		Y	Y			N			N								
---	--	---	---	--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3. Should county staff health insurance cover the following procedures:

ammography	Y		Y	Y			Y			Y							
emale sterilization	Y		Y	N			Y			Y							
asectomy	Y		Y	N			Y			Y							
bortion	E		Y	N			Y			Y							

4. Women in Cortland County have been in the forefront of environmental issues such as LLRW & hospital incineration of medical & non-medical wastes. This county has the highest radon level in homes of any in the state. Should county building codes requires radon resistant new construction?

E		E	Y			Y			-								
---	--	---	---	--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

5. Should the county create a policy that all waste paper generated in county offices be recycled rather than landfilled?

Y*	Y	Y	Y			Y			Y								
----	---	---	---	--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Should the county have a sexual harassment policy in place?

Y		Y	Y			Y			Y								
---	--	---	---	--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

If a woman is in jail and pregnant, should options counseling be provided to her about abortion, adoption, and parenthood?

Y		Y	?			Y			Y								
---	--	---	---	--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

8. Women continue to enter the workplace in ever increasing numbers. Single parent households have doubled in the past 25 years. What can county government do to assist single parents in the workplace?

NO NAME - (2) This should not be county paid but available to all. (4) Depends on cost and practicality of construction. (6) This is covered by existing laws. No need to duplicate. (8) Other than Head Start and day care programs govt. should not be in the position of Big Brother and parent. Govt. cannot correct all problems thru laws nor should they dictate lifestyles. Individuals must be responsible for their own actions.

ATWOOD - (8) Ensure equal opportunity is practical and not just talked about and that programs that are suggested are run efficiently and at reasonable cost, i.e. day care. (4) I need more information concerning costs of construction and actual locations of radon problems.

SUDOL - (8) I believe any of the innovations mentioned in questions 1,2 or 3 would be a good start. (3d) I'm not sure. (4) The county needs to do what it can to help and protect consumers but requirements can add to bureaucracy and hardship. (5) If it is not a hardship on the various departments to do so.

WERN - (8) Flex time, job sharing and day care facilities. (7) I believe in counseling programs that do not promote abortion as the primary option. (2) Only the facility should be furnished. Cost of operation should be from the users.

MORGAN - 8) Provide equitable salary with flextime available to allow parents the times necessary for family needs. (4) I honestly do not know enough about this issue to make a judgement without research.

RIOTTO - (8) The county should implement a fair and equitable system utilizing flex time and job sharing practices allowing mothers to take necessary time off when their children are sick or need to see a doctor. (2) Thousands of women go to work every day and worry about quality child care for their children. Many women are earning low wages and barely making ends meet. Our county does not finance quality child care for these women. I think it is unfair to ask these women to pay for quality child care, through taxes, for county workers when they are trying to find affordable, quality child care for their children.

KEY TO RESPONSES

Y Yes

N No

E An explanation instead of yes or no--See comment section.

* Qualified yes or no--See comment section.

- No response to specific question

Blank No response to entire questionnaire

CITY COUNCIL	TOTAL # CANDIDATES	# CANDIDATES RESPONDING	PERCENT RESPONSE
Democrats	9	7	78%
Republicans	9	4	44%

COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Democrats	14	8	57%
Republicans	13	2	15%

CITY COUNCIL AND MAYORIAL

	TOTAL # CANDIDATES	# CANDIDATES RESPONDING	% RESPONSE
MALES	16	10	63%
FEMALES	2	2	100%

COUNTY LEGISLATURE

MALES	19	6	32%
FEMALES	8	4	50%

POETRY CONTRIBUTED BY MARGE PERCY ONE OF OUR MEMBERS

I will choose what enters me, what becomes flesh of
my flesh.
Without choice, no politics, no ethics lives.
I am not your cornfield, not your uranium mine,
not your calf for fattening, not your cow for milking.
You may not use me as your factory.
Priests and legislators do not hold shares in my womb
or my mind.
This is my body.
If I give it to you I want it back.
My life is a non-negotiable demand.

CHOICE FACTS

Unless the course of the U.S. AIDS epidemic changes, experts project as many as 125,000 motherless children under age 18 by the year 2000. Most will not be infected themselves. They will need homes, families, food and counseling.

THE GREAT RIGHT WAY

The Religious Right is fast becoming a potent political force. The percentage of people who hold conservative positions in this country is relatively small but their momentum has grown since Reagan. This is due, in part, to funding from conservative foundations and the growth of non-profit religious groups. Religious fundamentalists and New Right groups have become increasingly influential in the Republican Party. Espousing "family values," these groups have a staggering single mindedness in efforts to register churchgoers and endorse conservative candidates at every level.

The Rev. James Dobson's Focus on the Family and the Rev. Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition have annual operating budgets in excess of \$50 million and a membership powerful beyond their members because of this single mindedness.

Few progressive groups have ever raised this much money, nor do they own TV and radio stations to get their message across. (See Hate Radio article)

John Molin, Lynde and Harry Bradley, Sarah Scaife and Adolph Coors Foundations all fund the Heritage Foundation, the Free Congress Research & Ed Foundation and the Family Research Council. Anti Communism activity no longer draws energy from these groups, "Traditional Family Values" do.

These groups have undertaken major projects to silence progressive organizations by:

1. Intelligence gathering
2. Consumer boycotts
3. Letter writing campaigns to get corporations to cut funds to progressive groups and federal aid to organizations that promote policies inconsistent with Reagan/Bush views.

Examples of these tactics are numerous. The "gag" rule allowed free speech restrictions regarding options counseling in federally funded birth control clinics. This was put in place with a well financed conservative lobby. NEA, sex education in schools, research on contraception, RU 486, book bans, AT&T funding to the Planned Parenthood Teen Pregnancy Prevention Project, the demise of MS. magazine with an advertising boycott, and international family planning funds are but a few areas undermined by this lobby.

All of this flies in the face of free speech and the separation of Church and State and warrants our vigilance.

Source: Health & Sexuality Fall '92 Vol 3 #2

WANTED VOLUNTEERS - REWARD OFFERED Free consultation with computer expert.

To help with our voter ID Project drop a note to our post office box to indicate your interest in doing data entry. Work with FUN PEOPLE and receive a FREE COMPUTER CONSULT.

HARASSING PHONE CALLS???

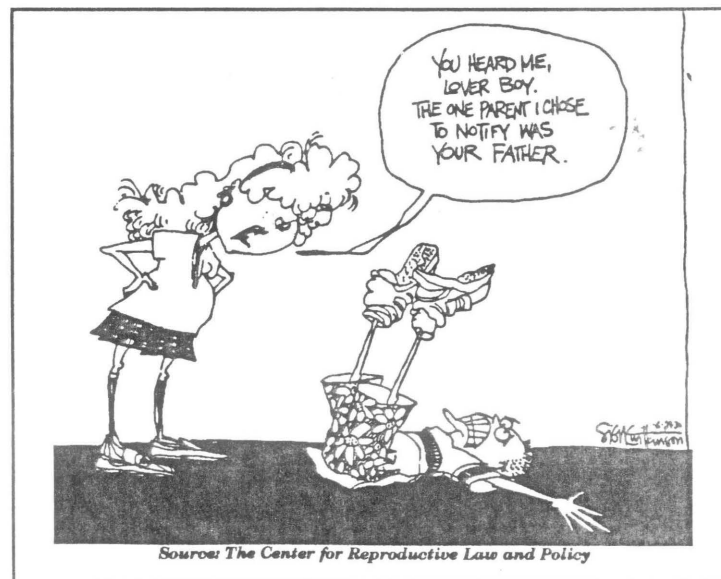
A number of people associated with Cortland's Pro Choice movement have been receiving annoyance calls. Therefore we are slightly paranoid about putting phone numbers in this newsletter.

MISSISSIPPI ABORTION CONSENT LAW UPHELD

Mississippi can require unmarried teen-agers to obtain permission from both parents before having an abortion, a federal appeals court in New Orleans ruled.

Arguing against the law, New York attorney Catherine Albisa termed it the "nation's most onerous," and predicted an appeal because the Supreme Court has never approved a two-parent consent law.

The three abortion clinics in Mississippi have one week to begin complying with the order that had been blocked by the court since 1986.



STOP THE CLINIC VIOLENCE

Boise, Idaho officials said that a recent arson fire extensively damaged an abortion clinic that has been the target of protests and threats. This time no one was hurt. During 1992, there were 1,107 such acts (bombing, arson, vandalism, and chemical contamination) committed against community clinics. Butyric acid and water flooded a South Bend clinic on Mother's day when vandals (terrorists) broke open a sealed mail box slot, poured the powdered acid in and slipped a hose through the slot.

MICHIGAN JUDGE ACCUSED OF PUTTING HIS ANTI-ABORTION BELIEFS FIRST

Kalamazoo (Michigan) County Probate Judge Donald Halstead recently refused an eight-weeks pregnant 17-year-old's request for a hearing, as she sought a waiver of the state's parental consent law: the law allows a judge, rather than a parent, to give permission for an abortion. Although a hearing is required by law, the judge dismissed the young woman's petition for it, stating that he believes the law is "unconstitutional as a violation of the rights of the minor's parents."

During his 13 year tenure, there have been allegations that Halstead has let his personal beliefs about abortion interfere with his judicial duties.

In 1981, a decade before the parental consent law was enacted, the guardian of an 11-year-old who had been raped and impregnated by her mother's live-in companion asked for Halstead to approve an abortion for the child. The judge delayed, and, by the time a federal judge ordered him to rule, she was 24 weeks pregnant. At this point Halstead declared it was too late for a safe abortion. She gave birth at the age of 12.

In the recent case, when the Judge refused to hear the testimony of the 17-year-old, Michigan's Court of Appeals removed him from the case and appointed another judge who granted the girl permission for an abortion.

The ACLU will ask that Halstead be barred from hearing more such cases, and will file a misconduct complaint with the Judicial Tenure Commission.

Cortland Standard 5/27/93

WHO HAS ABORTIONS?

- In 1988, there were 57.9 million women of reproductive age (15 to 44 years); 39 million of those were at risk for an unintended pregnancy.
- More than 50% of U.S. pregnancies are unintended; one half of these are terminated by abortion.
- The nonwhite abortion rate is more than twice the white rate (56 per 1,000 vs. 21 per 1,000)
- 59% of the women having abortions are under age 25.
- Each year, nearly three out of 100 women aged 15 to 44 have an abortion.

Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute.

For our friends picketing at 6 Euclid Ave. every week:

S - A - F - E - T - Y

Support A Fetus Economically for Twenty Years

I pledge to contribute \$5000 a year for 20 years - a total of \$100,000 - to the support of any fetus unaborted because of my presence today.

Signature _____
Printed Name _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____
Date _____
Location _____

USE THIS FORM TO MAKE A POINT WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER ANTI-ABORTION DEMONSTRATORS

GRACIOUS, THANKS and MERCI BEAU COUP TO:

To Ruth for computerizing.
To Tracey for financial management.
To Bill for mailing list maintenance.
To Pat for communicating thanks to our contributors and her writings.
To all the volunteers on the Voter ID Project.

CALENDAR

- Sept. 15 ProChoice Meeting at the YWCA - 7:00p
- October 1 Deadline to Register or Re-register to vote
- Nov. 2 Local Elections

Newsletter/Membership Form

Please make checks payable to:
Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385
Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion.

Signature _____
Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Here is my contribution of \$10 \$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other\$ _____
To help you continue your work and pay for Newsletter costs.

Not Tax Deductible

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

November 1993
Vol.3, Number 7

VOTE

Nov 2nd

6 AM - 9 PM

City and County Elections

RELIGIOUS RIGHT POLITICAL TACTICS

An article by Erin Saberi in a recent issue of the Christian Century outlines the tactics of the Religious Right to gain ascendancy into American politics and government. Entitled "From Moral Majority to Organized Minority: Tactics of the Religious Right", the article looks at the strategies being used to advance the conservative evangelical agenda.

In essence, the strategy is two-fold and is designed to gain the attention of a select local audience made up of church goers. It is comprised of an "air war" and a "ground war." The ground war uses guerrilla tactics, that is, it remains invisible while mobilizing the grass roots. The air war utilizes marketing through radio and television ads, videotape distribution, advanced computer systems, phone banks, leaflets and direct mail; all this aimed at a select audience that is most likely to be sympathetic and able to be mobilized to vote.

The stealth strategy, which was first successfully used in the San Diego School Board elections of 1990, enabled conservative Christians to win 60 of 88 specially targeted low visibility races. Known as the "San Diego Model" the tactics were successful in electing candidates through voter registration drives conducted by the Religious Right.

Once elected the official wastes little time in advancing the conservative agenda. Saberi cites an example which occurred in La Mesa, California where two stealth elected school board members opposed a federally funded breakfast program because, they said it "violated family values" and was "socialist." The Cortland Standard in its September 1, edition carried an AP article on bookbanning by Ronald Powers in which the quotes from a study entitled "Attacks on the Freedom to Learn" produced by the People for the American Way. The study states, "Challengers were more active in the 1992-93 school year than at any time in the

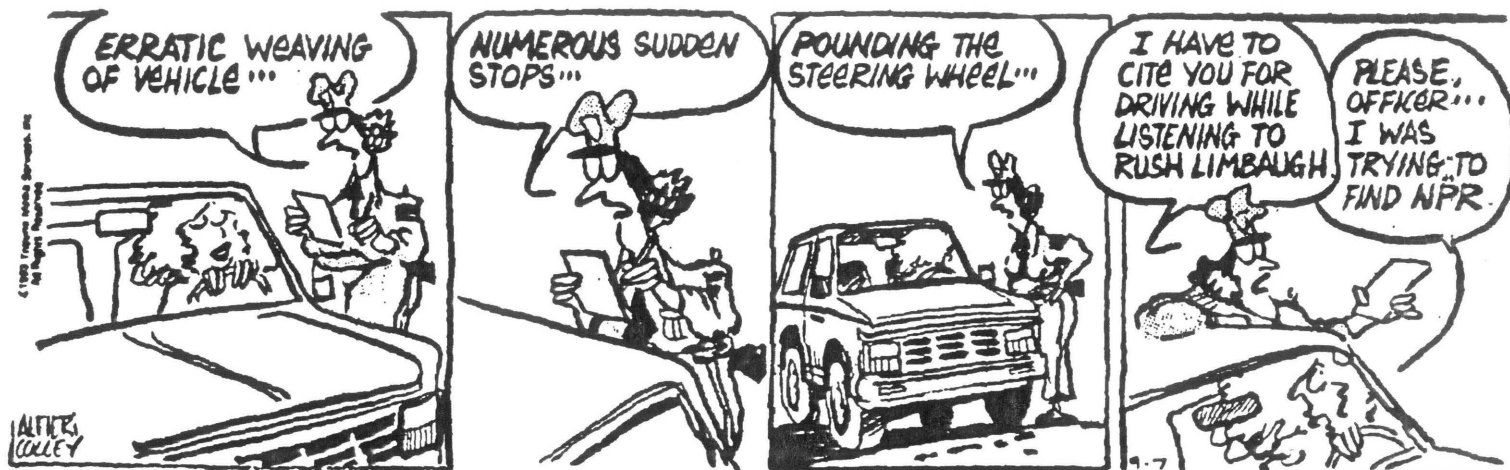
11-year history of this report." Nationwide 395 censorship incidents were reported in 44 states. In 41 percent of the cases, the challengers succeeded in having the offending materials removed or restricted. Among the groups fomenting the challenges are the Christian Coalition and the Eagle Forum (Phyllis Schafley) - conservative groups that want fundamentalist christian standards.

Time Magazine in its September 13, edition carried an article on Ralph Reed, the Christian Coalition's executive director. Young, attractive, bright and politically savvy, Reed's greatest asset is his flexibility. After a spate of articles and news items regarding the Religious Right's stealth tactics, such as the one by Erin Saberi, Reed is now striving to give the movement a "gentler and more catholic visage" and to appeal to mainstream Republicans by using issues of education. While seemingly becoming more reasonable, Reed's goal has not changed. It is to have the Religious Right become "larger and more effective than both political parties combined."

When I read these articles and realize what is happening I become both frightened and angry. Frightened, because so many well-meaning people are taken in by the pious, self-righteous rhetoric and angry because by using the name "Christian" it casts a pall over all Christians. As a lifelong practicing Christian I resent this and find it a distortion of the Christian faith, which first and foremost states, "Love God and love your neighbor as yourself."

Holly Greer

PAT ROBERTSON ADDRESSED THE N.Y. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE OCT. 15, 1993 IN SYRACUSE, N.Y.



CANDIDATE SURVEY ANALYSIS CITY

Two-third of the candidates returned the questionnaires. Four said "yes" to abortion being covered by city health insurance. However, three of those were qualified answers that limited abortion access to spontaneous abortions, rape, disease, abuse, or "in some circumstances" but certainly "not for convenience." Five said "no" outright and two gave an explanation, rather than committing to a "yes" or "no" answer. The major indicated that the unions negotiate health benefits, not the mayor or the council. That's good, because if it were determined by those folks there would be no abortion funding.

Three candidates felt that city employees should not have access to abortion coverage, but that pregnant women in jail should receive options counseling including information about abortion, adoption and parenthood.

For the most part, questions were gender neutral, e.g., Q6 sexual harassment and Q8 single parenthood; but some respondents could not read them as such and insisted that "we not forget the gentlemen." Healey, Wilson, and Ferro added that the sexual harassment policy should be for both men and women. Some thought of single parenthood only in terms of single mothers. Harvey Healey, candidate for mayor, thought question 4 should read "men and women have been on the forefront of environmental issues. . . ." Well, this was a women's questionnaire and Cindy, Denise, Pam, Jamie, Ann, and Betsy are the names that immediately come to mind in that struggle.

Barardi is the only respondent who opposed waste paper recycling. He also suggested that the government should not do a thing to support single parents in the workplace. Do you recall when a man got a raise because his wife had a baby?

Healey and Wilson oppose a radon resilient building code.

Thomas thought mammography should be covered by insurance but wrote "not relevant" for the other procedures of sterilization and abortion.

The Republican Party is endorsing two former New Life Church members for city council.

GRACIOUS, THANKS and MERCI BEAU COUP TO:

To Ruth the computer whiz
To the loyal workers of the ID Project
To Holly for writings
To Pat for chairing meetings
To Tracey for treasurer's duties
All of You wonderful people who made generous contributions.

CALENDAR

- • Nov 2, Election Day
- • Nov 9, Pro-Choice Meeting • 7:30pm YWCA Election Analysis
- • Jan '94 Annual Renewal Month for Newsletter Keep us going.
- • Jan 24, Family Planning Advocates Annual Meeting, Albany.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

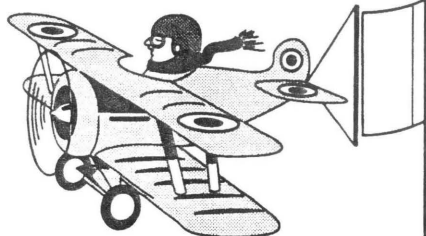
\$10.00 for mailings _____
Other Contributions _____

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

January 1993
Vol.3, Number 8



JANUARY IS ANNUAL RENEWAL MONTH

A PRO-CHOICE PRESIDENT DOES NOT A PRO-CHOICE NATION MAKE

Blockades of abortion clinics
Stalking and harassment of doctors who provide abortions
Denial of federal funding of abortion
Parental involvement (consent or notification) laws
Mandatory delays (so-called "waiting periods")
Mandatory biased counseling (so-called "informed consent")
Bans on abortions in public hospitals
Medical schools' failure to teach abortion procedure
Opposition to sex education
Inadequate funding for family planning
Opposition to reproductive health care in national health insurance
The Reagan-Bush Supreme Court majority
Strong, unashamed anti-choice politicians
Timid pro-choice politicians
The Roman Catholic Church and its politicized bishops
The Christian Coalition, the religious right
Pat Buchanan, Pat Robertson
"Stealth" candidates from the Christian right
Opposition to FDA approval of RU-486
"Hate" radio
Rampant misogyny

Source: Polly Rothstein -- Westchester
Coalition for Legal Abortion, Inc.

21ST ROE V. WADE CELEBRATION

HOLLYWOOD RESTAURANT

FRIDAY, JAN. 21

4:30-6:00PM

A CHANCE TO PLEDGE A PICKET,
MAKE A STATEMENT AND WEAR YOUR
HATS FOR CHOICE!

JOYCELYN ELDERS COMING TO CORTLAND
SEE PAGE 4 CALENDAR

LOCAL RIGHT TO LIFE ACTS UP

The Oct. and Nov. Board of Directors' meetings of the Family Health Network (formerly Rural Health Clinics) have been occupied by 15-40 RTL protesters carrying graphic pictures and shouting angry words. The cause? A rumor that FHN will be opening an abortion clinic next to St. Mary's Church. The truth—they were looking at a site on Main St. as a possible site for a primary care center and they have been interviewing OB-Gyns.

Jan 22, 1994, the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, RTL will stage a Protest March from the Post Office to the Jacobus Center on Central Ave and then to 6 Euclid Ave.

But come to the Hollywood on Jan 21, 4:30-6:00PM to celebrate The Decision. Guess how many picketers they will have at the Post Office the next day and pledge an amount to CCFC for each one. THIS IS A WIN WIN SITUATION FOR US!

Early, 1994 an adoption and crisis pregnancy center called, Family Connections will open at 16 Hyatt St. This is a carry over from the New Life Adoption Agency. Recall the 1991 crisis of a school counselor (also a church member) driving a student to New Life for a pregnancy test and adoption counseling. The test came out positive but the teen wanted an abortion not adoption. A trip to an abortion clinic revealed that the test was not positive. Will the new agency be a licensed lab? Will the counselors discuss all options? Will they refer people with negative tests for birth control should they desire it?

HUNGRY FOR FEED BACK

Your comments, both pro and con, provide emotional wages for this all-volunteer CHOICE staff.

Please Renew -- We Need You!

A VERY SHORT HISTORY OF THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT'S ENTRY INTO POLITICS

The 1940s were filled with war and peace. Women no longer needed in the war effort so back to the kitchens. Cold war and hysteria of communist menace builds. Military-industrial complex well positioned for power. The 1950s foment roots of discontent among blacks and women both of whom had more personhood during the war. The economy booms. The 1960s, however, sees inflation, plant closings and economic downturns. Social unrest growing. Steel belt to rust belt. The decline of the "family wage" (one salary supports the family) takes power from the traditional white male. 1970s—1st time that upcoming generation will not live as well as their parents did.

In steps our hero, Paul Weyrich, eventual founder of the Heritage and Free Congress Foundations, both supported big time by Coors Beer money. He is the instrumental person in the three way marriage of the religious right, economic conservatives and the Republican Party which began when Gary Jarmen and Ed Makatie invited politicians to a religious roundtable discussion. Richard Vigarie (master of direct mail fund raising) becomes the fourth founding father for the birth of the political agenda of the religious right that occurred in the later 1970s.

This foursome observed that Oral Roberts, Jim and Tammy Baker, et. al were getting rich with televangelist anti-abortion, anti-gay rhetoric. Those folks had technological access to millions of donors. Jerry Falwell was recruited to bring in the sheep. Weyrich coins phrase "Moral Majority." Give us your lists and we'll give you an anti-choice president. Your agenda, Jerry, can be addressed politically! "True" Christians become political activists.

Alas, the strategy failed. Reagan gave lip service but Roe v Wade prevailed. (Does this explain Reagan's about face on the abortion issue from when he was governor of California? — and Bush too?) Pat Robertson runs for president in '88. Obtains more contributors' names and \$12 M of your tax payer presidential campaign contribution monies.

Robertson founds the Christian Coalition (annual budget \$12M). In 20% of the states there is a chapter in every county. In NY there are 20 chapters and the HQ is in Buffalo. 1st success—1990 San Diego Project put Christian Right candidates into office in 60 of 88 races due to stealth campaigns characterized by obscured issues and voter apathy.

In 1991, James Dodson, of Focus on the Family and author of Dare to Discipline moves to Colorado with staff of 1000. Coors Beer Corp. provides \$4 M for this move from California. 1992 Colorado Springs pass anti-gay law.

One week before 1992 election in Iowa with ERA on ballot, Pat Robertson says that the women's movement "is about women leaving their husbands, killing their babies, and becoming lesbians." (That's a heavy schedule according to cartoonist, Sylvia.)

Christian Right (CR) take over '92 Republican national convention. Local church does same to Cortland Republican Party in 1991. Secret agendas and flying below radar mark CR office seekers especially those for 10 year family court judgeships as in Chemung and Steuben Counties.

CC and CR are giving God a bad name in their deceptive election tactics. Why must they hide their agenda? In San Diego, once revealed CR office holders were turned out of office. CC have not been successful at state or national level so turn their energies to organizing at the local level—"one precinct at a time-until once again (Christians) are the head and not the tail, at the top rather than the bottom of the political system." according to Pat Robertson.

Summarized from F.P.A. Carol Reichert Speech 5/93

OPINION MAKERS SEEK CCFC'S OPINION

The State Republican Family Committee called us to seek our opinion as to whether Assembly candidate Dan Fessendan was pro-choice enough to win their endorsement and funding.

We referred them to the questionnaire done by the Cortland Women's Coalition. That showed Fessendan supported choice but not medicaid funding for poor women's abortions. Also, he favored parental notification but not consent for abortions for minors (*minors see no difference between notification and consent and regard both as onerous*).

The New York Office of People for the American Way called to identify local people who sought public office as "stealth" candidates.

We will monitor the upcoming School Board elections in May. Anyone interested in running?

Both State Senate candidates sought to have an insert in our mailings. Rhea Jezer (who ran for Congress against James Walsh) and State Assemblyman Marty Luster requested access to our 500 household mailing list in order to connect with pro-choice voters.

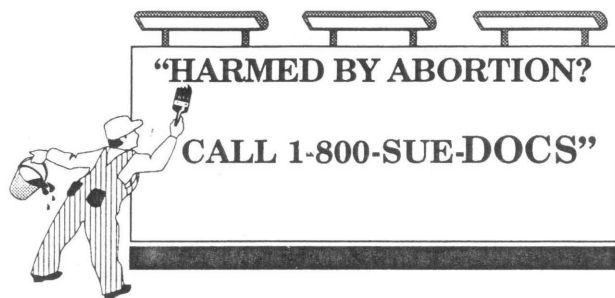
BAD OMENS

The house vote supporting the Hyde Amendment was shockingly lopsided and the Senate vote on 9/28/93 not much better. How are we ever to have coverage of all reproductive services under the new health care plan if Congress continues to insist that poor women should not have the same access to abortion as higher income women. Most health insurance policies currently cover abortion. Not having it covered in Clinton's plan means that we will have less coverage for more money. NY is one of the 13 or so states that kick in the federal share (50%) of Medicaid so all women are covered for the choice of abortion here. Under universal coverage it will probably remain a state decision.

A "conscience" clause is proposed in the new plan so that people can opt for plans that do not cover abortion. We call it a restricted or limited plan. No one plans to have an abortion. This is again more "right to life" wording. Where are the "conscience" clauses for not supporting war, etc?

THEY SUE DOCTORS, DON'T THEY?

Southern billboard



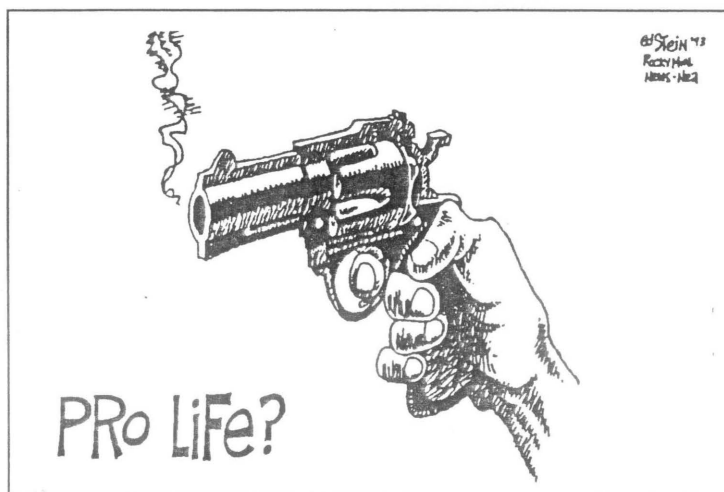
Another campaign — Did you get pregnant with a condom provided by State funded family planning clinic? We'll help you sue.

Even more sophisticated, however, is the Abortion Malpractice kit. It contains very slick materials prepared for and mailed to 4000 U.S. lawyers. Herein lies a 10 min video (in case the lawyer can't read) "that could change your legal practice forever." A female lawyer tells how you can send \$400 to Life Dynamics in Lewisville, Tx for a TV ad with your law firm's name. The ad shows a woman crouching in the corner of a warehouse on a rainy night. (Feels like reference to back alley to me.)

The sample Patient's Rights brochure warns a woman of her rights as she is seeking an abortion. She gets the physician to sign that he is licensed and has no claims or judgements against him. He then fills in his insurance company and policy #. (What if we did this for all procedures?)

The other brochure entitled "Will I be a victim the rest of my life?" is for the woman after the abortion. It asks, "have you had any of the following since the abortion: breast, liver, cervical, or ovarian cancers," to name just a few. (Recall RTL Surgeon General Koop could not substantiate harm done to women by abortion despite White House urging).

The lawyers' notebook (a fine guide to ambulance chasing) is written in very scientific-sounding jargon with 40 references to medical journals. The only problem is that some of this research is from the days when abortion was illegal. Ten of forty articles were from the 1970s.



BABIES ARE BIG BUSINESS

In the Sept/Oct 93 issue of Ms, Lisa Petrillo recounts the story of Krista Stoner who lost her baby to the Christian Right. Stoner has spent 4 years fighting what she considers a coerced adoption.

Stoner as a pregnant, homeless teen goes to San Diego Pregnancy Service, a fundamentalist Xian "education" center. She was seeking assistance as a single parent-to-be. She claims that the leader pushed her to adoption. When in labor, they wouldn't take her to the hospital until she picked an adoptive family from their book. In the midst of labor, under 2 shots of demerol, she was persuaded to sign a form that allowed someone else to remove the baby from the hospital.

In May, '93 a jury ordered the Center to pay Stoner \$650,000 in damages for defrauding her. She did not get her baby back.

Pro Choice groups allege that there is a fundamentalist Xian underground adoption network operation in 6 states. Eleven legal actions are pending California Christian centers alone.

These centers usually offer free pregnancy testing and show anti-abortion propaganda. Their counselors are usually unlicensed. Some lawyers who have represented birth mothers and some pro choice groups claim that these centers are fronts for a lucrative underground baby-selling network.

Attorney Generals in Oregon and New York have done consumer fraud studies of those clinics and have disallowed their deceptive names and ads. In NY they can no longer be listed under "Abortion" in the Yellow Pages.

OPERATION RESCUE'S CITIES OF REFUGE DRAWS SMALL NUMBERS

Seven cities were targeted this summer; they expected huge crowds and fewer than 100 came to block clinics at each location. Choice defenders outnumbered those who would deny women access to the clinics and all patients were able to attain services for which they came.

TOO MANY OB-GYNS?

With the new health care plan, primary care physicians, not specialists will be needed. OBs could provide that care and there is proposed legislation to that affect but resistance comes because of the unnecessary surgery reputation OBs have gained. Too many OB-Gyns?—hum-m-m. Maybe they could do abortions because there is a dramatic shortage of providers. We must, of course, make it safer for them to provide that service.

CHOICE QUESTION?????

If Jesse Helm's wife was carrying a gay fetus (located in the Xg 28 chromosomal region according to Science 1993, 261:321), would he consider abortion?

SURGEON GENERAL DR. JOYCELYN ELDERS CONFIRMED — FINALLY

Early sex education, condom distribution in the schools and federal coverage for abortion services—Dr. Elders refused to back down on those items as she was pressed by conservative forces during confirmation hearings. #1 priority for Elders is teen pregnancy prevention in order to strengthen families. She says we need to educate our kids about what to do in the back seat of the car as well as in the front.

RU 486 - THE SOLUTION?

Most abortion doctors think that RU 486 can calm the U.S. abortion storm. The Population Council has secured the American license to RU 486. Some proponents say that its availability could mean the end to blockades, rescues, screaming, ranting, shouting, sign waving protesters. Others are more cautious saying that abortion clinics will not disband. Using England and France as examples it is estimated that 2/3rds of American abortions will still be surgical procedures. The Right to Choose is not based on technology.

In England, RU-486 is more expensive than a surgical abortion and requires more time in clinics for counseling and procedural steps. Four visits are required for RU 486—one visit for vacuum aspiration.

Pro-Choicers are hoping that the prospect of RU 486 will induce more doctors to do abortions to relieve the nationwide provider shortage (83% of all counties in U.S. have no provider).

NY is looking at mid-level practitioners providing abortions. A law change is necessary.

RTLers threaten drug companies and the FDA with suits. They threaten to spy on private physicians to see who is offering the drug. "We'll go to their homes, to their offices, to their hospitals," Joe Scheidler president of the Pro-Life Action League says.

CHOICE QUOTE

"With this stroke of the pen, it became legal to cannibalize and commercialize the tiny bodies of murdered babies." James Dodson, Focus on the Family responding to Clinton's OK of fetal tissue research.

CALENDAR

- Jan 11, Pro-Choice Meeting • 7:30pm • YWCA
- Jan 21, Celebration of Roe v. Wade Anniversary
4:30 - 6:00pm • Hollywood Restaurant
- Jan 24 - 25, Family Planning Advocates Annual
Meeting • Albany, N.Y. (518)-436-8408
- Jan 28, Joycelyn Elders Speaks at SUNY
Cortland
- Feb 8, Pro-Choice Meeting • 7:30pm • YWCA

RELIGIOUS RIGHT REPLACES RIGHT TO LIFE

The big tent includes fundamentalist and evangelical Protestants allied with more conservative Catholics. Their uniting issues: oppose women's right for abortion and oppose gays and lesbians in the military and everywhere else.

"Operation Rescue and its brain-dead clones (Rescue America, Missionaries to the Pre-Born, Lambs of Christ, etc.) are part of the religious right," according to Polly Rothstein of Westchester Coalition.

The Christian Coalition is the organizing force of the religious right. In recent days, the Christian Coalition via hate radio and some Christian media have been attacking homosexual rights "because it's easier these days to incite fear of homosexuals than fear of liberated women. There are big bucks to be made by promoting hate and homophobia.

Source: Westchester Abortion Rights

QUESTIONS A POOR WOMAN
MUST ANSWER TO GET AN
ABORTION:

WERE YOU RAPED?
VICTIM OF INCEST?
DID YOU KNOW THE INCIDENT
DID WITHIN 60 DAYS?
FILL OUT THE REPORTS & HAVE
YOU GONE THROUGH COUNSELING?
WOULD YOU SUFFER SEVERE PHY-
SICAL DAMAGE WITHOUT ONE?
PARENTAL CONSENT
ETC. ETC. ETC.
1/26/88

QUESTIONS A RICH WOMAN
MUST ANSWER TO GET AN
ABORTION:

CASH on CHARGE?

GRACIOUS, THANKS and MERCI BEAU COUP TO:

To Ruth for list maintenance
To Pat for mailing parties
To Tracey for financial management
All of You wonderful people who made generous contributions.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$10.00 for mailings _____

Other Contributions _____

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

February 1994
Vol.3, Number 9

The religious right has a new strategy:



SUPREME COURT ALLOWS USE OF RICO IN PROTEST CASES

"Advocates of legal abortion Monday gained a powerful legal weapon to combat violent clinic blockades. The Supreme Court unanimously ruled that a 24-year old anti-racketeering law could be used against abortion protesters, even if they did not have an economic motive. The ruling allows the National Organization of Women to return to lower courts and sue abortion clinic blockaders for millions in damages. 'There's been such an escalation of violence,' says NOW president Patricia Ireland. 'It's really important that we have this tool.' The National Abortion Federation estimates clinics suffered \$3.5 million last year from vandalism Abortion rights advocates say legitimate protest will not be threatened. The Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act can only be invoked if an organization commits major crimes. 'We're not talking about people showing up with a picket sign, we're talking about terror and shooting people,' says Helen Neuborne of the NOW Legal Defense Fund."

USA Today, Jan. 25, 1994

CHOICE IN THE NEWS THIS YEAR, ANTI-ABORTION RALLY DRAWS SLIGHT OFFICIAL NOTICE

Washington, Jan. 21- In past years, participants in the "March for Life" would have phone messages from Presidents supporting their anti-abortion cause. Last year President Clinton "marked the occasion by signing several executive orders overturning anti-abortion edicts of his predecessors." This year's rallies "drew less than half the people they did last year and were, for the most part, ignored by official Washington." *The New York Times, Jan. 22, 1994*

WHITE HOUSE DEFENDS ABORTION ORDER

"Rejecting arguments of some state officials, the Clinton Administration insisted today that states must help to finance abortions for low-income women in cases of rape or incest. . . . For years, a section of Federal appropriation bills known as the Hyde Amendment has prohibited the use of federal money for abortions except when such procedures were needed to protect the lives of pregnant women. . . . A Government lawyer said that under the Medicaid law 'what is not prohibited is required if it is medically necessary.' Since Medicaid coverage for abortions in cases of rape or incest is no longer prohibited, it is therefore required, she said."

The New York Times, Jan. 7, 1994

DID YOU KNOW THAT. . .

"... sex education does work? It delays or decreases adolescent sexual activity and leads to greater use of contraception. Contrary to some parents' concerns, sex education does not appear to lead to earlier involvement in sex. Sex education is most likely to be successful when given to youths who have not begun sexual activity."

Cynthia Waszak, Ph.D. Family Health International, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, discussing the World Health Organization's review of 19 scientific studies of sex education in schools. *Bottom Line: Personal, Feb. 1, 1994*



VIRGINITY AD—DECEPTION AS USUAL

A recent ad in the Cortland Standard entitled "In Defense of a Little Virginity" was sponsored by Colorado's Focus on the Family people and our local religious right. The ad is contradictory and undermines truth in advertising.

It goes without saying that most parents would prefer that their children (males and females) remain virgins during their high school years. The federal Office of Public Health could have created a credible and factual defense. This ad does not.

"In Defense ..." starts with a series of "facts": 1 in 100 students coming to the U of Texas Health Center is HIV positive. A footnote in tiny print at the bottom of the page says—"a non random study." A call to the U of T finds administrators angry at the use of this data in this ad. The school had opened its clinic to high risk groups in the neighborhood and this study looked only at those who came to the clinic for a blood test. Why do people request blood tests? Syphilis, usually.

The thrust of the ad is that abstinence-only based programs work, should be taught in our schools, and are the solution for our moral decline. Most educators with classroom experience teach abstinence and reality. An irony is the example they site of an abstinence program. Best Friends for girls in Washington DC. provides mentors and pushes abstinence in high school. There were no pregnancies—possibly because the young women got comprehensive sex ed starting in jr. high.

HUNGRY FOR FEED BACK

Your comments, both pro and con, provide emotional wages for this all-volunteer CHOICE staff.

MD TO CHURCH IN BULLET PROOF VEST

The United Methodist Record, a national publication of that church reported the story of a tall, white-haired physician walking down the sanctuary aisle in his raincoat to receive communion in his Dallas church. The raincoat concealed his bullet-proof vest and he had been asked to sit in the sanctuary transept so no one could take aim from behind. Dr. Tompkins who does abortions as part of his Ob-Gyn practice has been the target of Operation Rescue. For 8 Sundays they picketed him at church. There have been 3 threats to his life. Dr. Tompkins now has 24 hr armed security guards to accompany him.

THE POLLS AND THE CATHOLICS

A recent Gallop poll says that 87% of US Catholics believe that couples should follow their own conscience in deciding about birth control. 52% of Catholics favor abortion in many circumstances and 70% could vote for a pro-choice politician in good conscience

A Time/CNN poll showed 79% of Catholics surveyed said that they should make up their own minds about contraception and abortion instead of relying on Church teachings.

HATE RADIO

You need the experience! Tune into 1000 or 1290 AM radio any afternoon. Or try G. Gordon Liddy on WVBR between 11-12 Noon.

You'll hear Randy Terry, Phyllis Schlafly or the like. Is this Christian radio?

THEY ARE WINNING!

We have a pro-choice president, and a new Supreme Court appointee and a pro-choice Surgeon General and a pro-choice Attorney General.

What don't we have?

You know damn well.

We don't have ACCESS!

There is no physician in town who will provide poor women with medicaid-funded abortions or sterilizations. Doctors have gotten the message. Do abortions and die.

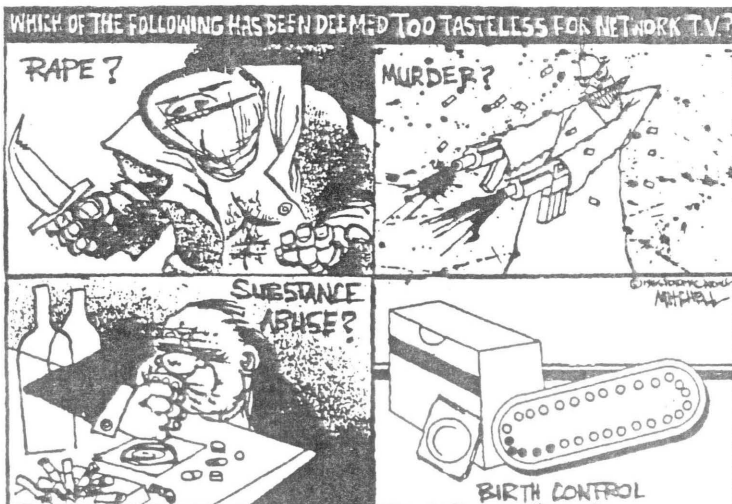
Picketing, violence and the threat of death works. They have won.

1 MILLION TEEN PREGNANCIES IN 1990 521,626 TEEN BIRTHS

Between 1980 and 1990 teen abortions were down in 26 of 40 states for which there was data and up in 8 of the 40. Birth rates increased in 29 states. Despite the national goals of Healthy People 2000, our teen pregnancy and birth rates exceed those of most developed countries. Ours was twice as high as Canada's in 1987. Their teens probably have the same MTV and other explicit media. What gives? There are 2 differences between us and the other lower rate countries—socialized medicine and good sex education in their schools. We expect our kids not to be sexually active and they expect their kids not to get pregnant.

From the CDC---MMWR Oct. 1, 1993

SCHOOL BOARD VOTERS NEEDED—MAY 3 IS THE ELECTION FOR CORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT—WATCH FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER FOR INFORMATION ON THE CANDIDATES.





THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

DANIEL J. FESSENDEN
Assemblyman 126th District
Cayuga, Cortland and Chenango Counties

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Agriculture Committee

COMMITTEES
Environmental Conservation
Social Services

January 24, 1994

Andrea Rankin
Cortland Coalition for Choice
P.O. Box 385
Cortland, New York 13045

Dear Ms. Rankin:

Not having had the chance to meet with you personally while you were in Albany, I would like to take this opportunity to voice a concern of mine with you.

I was disappointed to read the article in the Cortland Coalition for Choice newsletter (January 1994) entitled "Opinion Makers Seek CCFC's Opinion."

While we differ on matters of medicaid funding for abortions and parental notification, I support the right for a woman to choose. You treat this fact in your article as merely trivial.

Further, you totally failed to report (and I presume inform the State Republican Family Committee) that my opponent in the '92 election was pro-life to the point.

Since taking office, I have, on more than one occasion, met with you and other representatives to discuss issues of concern to CCFC. I have listened carefully and have benefitted from our meetings. In addition, I was proud to support legislation in 1993 regarding access to health care facilities, not to mention sponsoring a Resolution honoring former New York State Assemblyman George Michaels.

Overlooking the aforementioned seems to have served your organization's agenda. It also has called into question my respect for CCFC.

I hope we can work together more cooperatively. Let's talk.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Fessenden
Member of Assembly

DJF:mbk

Women's Coalition

14 Clayton Ave. • Cortland, NY 13045

*American Association of University Women • League of Women Voters
SUNY Women's Studies Committee • YWCA • ZONTA*

ABOUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Questionnaires mailed to candidates of this data.
2. All of the Clinton/Gore answers a paper submitted in place of the questionnaires.
3. Ross Perot's name was not on the questionnaires were mailed.
4. Questionnaires are available for of the YWCA 14 Clayton Ave.

1. I support ERA legislation.
 2. I support increased government funding for:
 - a. Child care
 - b. Family planning programs
 - c. Strong support collection programs
 - d. Battered spouse programs/shelters
 - e. Women's job training in non-traditional fields
 - f. Displaced homemakers
 - g. Rape crisis programs
 - h. Research--how AIDS affects women
 - i. Breast cancer research
 3. The federal government should pass a paid family leave policy to ensure workers unpaid time off for family medical needs.
 4. Access to health care should be on the same terms and conditions for everyone without regard to income, employment or gender.
 5. The federal government should establish a universal health care system.
 6. Women receive \$.61 to every \$1.00 earned by men. Do you support pay equity/comparable worth?
 7. I support a woman's right to choose whether or not to have an abortion.
 8. I support research on RU 486.
 9. I support medicaid funding for poor women's abortions.
 10. I support:
 - a. Spousal consent for abortion
 - b. 24 hour waiting period for abortion
 - c. Parental notification for minor's abortions
 - d. Parental consent for minor's abortions
 11. I support legislation that would permit women in the military to be involved in combat.
 12. I support legislation that would require the utility generators of LLRW to be responsible for the cost of their waste.
- The New York Times
Way called to identify
as "stealth" candidate
We will monitor
elections in May. A
Both State
insert in our mailing
against James Wal
requested access to
to connect with pr
News/letter - C

OPINION MAKERS SEEK CCFC'S OPINION

The State Republican Family Committee called us to seek our opinion as to whether Assembly candidate Dan Fessenden was pro-choice enough to win their endorsement and funding.

We referred them to the questionnaire done by the Cortland Women's Coalition. That showed Fessenden supported choice but not medicaid funding for poor women's abortions. Also, he favored parental notification but not consent for abortions for minors (*minors see no difference between notification and consent and regard both as onerous*).

The New York Office of People for the American Way called to identify local people who sought public office as "stealth" candidates.

We will monitor the upcoming School Board elections in May. Anyone interested in running?

Both State Senate candidates sought to have an insert in our mailings. Rhea Jezer (who ran for Congress against James Walsh) and State Assemblyman Marty Luster requested access to our 500 household mailing list in order to connect with pro-choice voters.

Newsletter - Cortland

CODES

- * Incumbent
** Answers could not be discerned from position paper
Y Yes
N No
? Undecided
Q Qualified No
D Depends on Budget Constraints
F Federal Issue, not state

A-H-H-H PREVENTION

For the first time in 12 years the federal Title X family planning program is poised to gain support. This is a program that expressly forbids any funding for abortion. It is strictly for birth control, natural family planning and infertility counseling.

It is categorical monies provided to health depts, Planned Parenthoods, and other clinics.

Here is some Title X history:

1981 Reagan writes Orrin Hatch regretting that he does not have the votes to defeat Title X. 25% cut in funding that year. Year by year reauthorizations makes X very tenuous. The Squeal Rule (parents told if their teens attend clinic) and the Gag Rule (pregnant patients can't be informed of abortion referrals even if they ask) are both eventually overturned by injunctions and multitudes of mail.

Family planning prevents the need for abortion. The local clinic prevents more than 900 pregnancies each year by providing services to 3300 patients. Far more abortions are prevented than all the religious right pickets ever thought of preventing.

Family planning funding and services were unjustly used as the focal point of the abortion debate in Congress. They had the wrong target and it's time for a change.

SCOREBOARD

1. DOWN Donations to NARAL in 1993 —down to one quarter of previous year.

2. UP Subscriptions to American Spectator, the aggressively conservative magazine that printed "The Real Anita Hill" two years ago and now the Clinton/state trooper scandal. From 1992-1994 circulation up 7 fold. 200,000 readers.

PLEDGE-A PICKET A DETERRENT?

The Cortland Citizens for Life announced in their newsletter and in the Cortland Standard that on the 21st anniversary of Roe v Wade they would picket the Jacobus Center. Instead they went to the Court House. Did they get the message that family planning clinics prevent abortions?

There were 25-30 picketers this year — far fewer than in other years. Could it be that our pledge-a-picket keeps them away? (Or are they now plotting to bomb clinics and shoot MDs?) This year we had a total of \$10 pledged for each anti-choice demonstrator. These pledges provide a constructive outlet to the anger we feel when faced with the self righteousness and violence of fanatics who want to interfere in other people's private and sensitive decisions. We were able to turn a disturbing situation into a PRO-CHOICE action and creatively earn \$250 for our newsletter costs.

ELDERS WAS GREAT!!

If you missed this one, try to view the videotape that the college made. Our own Surgeon General, Joyclyn Elders came to SUNY Cortland on 1/28/94 and was charming and

blunt. She totally disarmed the few "Pro-lifers" who ventured a question from the audience.

Despite the fact that posters advertising her lecture were repeatedly torn down on campus and despite the 20 antis who greeted the attenders with signs that said "Elders Go Home" and "Elders is Condom Queen," she spoke to an overflow audience.

Recall that C. Everett Koop, Reagan's Surgeon General was never called "Condom General" although he advocated condoms for AIDS prevention in that AIDS brochure mailed to every household in the US. Recall that his Right to Life stance held up his confirmation for 9 months. But he saw the light and as a result became the unlikely hero of the AIDS prevention movement.

ADS FROM DE MOSS

"Life. What a beautiful choice." These Hallmark-style ads are brought to you by a \$20 million contribution by the De Moss Foundation. Foundation Reports shows it has \$385 million in assets with donations to Campus Crusade for Christ, Walk Thru the Bible Ministries, the Pat Boone Foundation and Gospel Films. Another \$20 million is promised for a new set of ads. The same stations that buy these ads refuse to air paid ads for birth control! Isn't prevention better than unwanted pregnancy?

If these ads anger you in their simplistic manipulation, drop a postcard or letter to:

CBS President Laurence Tisch
524 West 57th St.
N.Y., N.Y. 10019

MEMORABLE BITS FROM THE FAMILY PLANNING ADVOCATES ANNUAL MEETING

Ann Lewis, Washington columnist said that for several years it has been better to appear ignorant than anti-choice. Witness Clarence Thomas.

1977 N.Y. Assembly was Pro-choice by one vote and now it is 2 to 1 pro choice.

Eleanor Cliff of Newsweek and the McLaughlin Report believes that abortion will not be included as part of Clinton's basic health plan. Alliances can offer it separately. He will sacrifice abortion to win the plan. Neither Bill or Hillary will fight particularly hard for abortion inclusion. The Catholic Conference has threatened to bolt the plan if abortion is included.

The new cash cow for the religious right is gay and lesbian hatred. Eight states have anti-gay legislation proposed in '94.

Joe Scheidler and friend burst into the Pencacola Abortion clinic in 1986, knocked down staff and destroyed equipment. In 1993, their clinic physician, Dr. Gunn was murdered. This was the long reign of terror which NOW brought to the Supreme Court for the 9-0 RICO decision on January 24. **OPERATION RESCUE IS ORGANIZED CRIME!**

There are 25,000 OB-GYNs in the US and 20,000 are pro-choice. Only 1,200 do abortions and they are usually the older ones who have witnessed women die of illegal abortion.

Research of the bad old days before Roe v Wade showed that women made an average of nine contacts before obtaining the sought after referral for an abortion. The cost was \$700. but if you cried it could come down to \$500.

RELIGIOUS RIGHT WINS IN CORTLAND

There's a new OB GYN in town and he does not do abortions. The RTL monitoring of the Family Health Network Board meetings has paid off. They got their way. A poor woman seeking a Medicaid funded abortion still will not be able to find one in Cortland.

Pithy Anna Quindlen

In her 12-2-93 NYT column, she says that "one of the saddest sentences in the child-bearing lexicon surely must be, 'Well, I can't afford an abortion so I guess I'll have the baby'."

Quindlen agrees with Eleanor Cliff's observation that Clinton will trade away women's right to abortion financing in his plan. "At the time that there are persistent calls for Draconian welfare reform and even the outright end of benefits to single mothers and their children, a health care plan that covers prenatal care, birth and baby care but denies abortion to those who want it constitutes a tacit agreement between government and citizen." That agreement is a promise to not forsake them. But welfare reform says differently.

The Administration argument that abortion funding should be maintained because most insurance plans currently fund it is a weak one, she says. Health care reform is for those who do not already have health care.

POLITICS AND RELIGION

From packing political meetings (it happened in Cortland in 1991) to playing an integral role in the determination of Republican party game plans, the religious right has obscured the line that should separate church and state."

Buffalo PP Newsletter Spring '93

CALENDAR

- April 27, Another GREAT TIME POT LUCK MAILING PARTY!
- May 3, School Board Election

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

THEY SUE PRO-CHOICE GROUPS, DON'T THEY!

Buffalo Pro-Choice Network is under siege by Randall Terry once again. In September, the Network and 13 escorts were charged by Terry in a multi-million dollar suit designed to impoverish and intimidate. In his literature, Terry tells of multiple civil lawsuits from his new American Anti Persecution League. He boasts: "We will sue radical feminists, homosexuals and abortion mill security guards. . . ."

NOT SO CHOICE QUOTE"

"Join our church and we'll get you a baby,"
Told to infertile couple by church member

CHOICE BITS

Abortion and National Health Insurance

Roman Catholic bishops say that they are prepared to sue the government if Catholic employers are required to cover abortions in their employees' health plans.

Mothers' Day Violence

A student group in South Bend Indiana called Collegiates Activated to Liberate Life harasses a clinic there and was perhaps responsible for breaking a sealed mailbox and pouring in butyric acid followed by a hose with water turned on.

Syracuse PP Newsletter Summer '93

GRACIOUS, THANKS and MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

To Pat for being a great host at the mailing party
All of You wonderful people who made generous contributions.

Thanks to all who pledged a picket. \$250 realized!

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$10.00 for mailings _____

Other Contributions _____

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

MAY 1994
Vol.3, Number 10

VOTE FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

May 3 • Cortland • 12:00-9:00PM

CONTINUED FALLOUT OF THE '92 ELECTION

The pro-choice victory in 1992 has the Religious Right (RR) looking for new targets and sex education is one of them. Of course they have other agendas, such as their anti-choice, anti-woman and anti-gay activities and their backing of public school textbook censorship. One of the main reasons for the RR to run for local school boards (especially as stealth candidates) is to promote their "Abstinence-Only" curricula. Locally, at least one rural school has had parent complaints on the teaching of sex education.

We have no problem with an abstinence curriculum. Abstinence is the only 100% sure way to prevent pregnancy and STDs. But comprehensive sex education promotes abstinence as well as contraceptive knowledge. More than half of all teens are sexually active and their needs must be addressed as well. Parents and religious institutions, of course, must be the prime educators in this area.

The Abstinence-Only curricula is built on fear, guilt and shame, and promotes a narrow, sectarian, anti-choice agenda. It is filled with empty slogans, grossly inaccurate medical information and tries to browbeat teens into chastity to achieve its objectives.

Several years ago Cortland College had a wellness resource center that happened to hire a RR staff member. She purchased such materials to share with the local high school teachers, but the teachers objected...

CCFC March '94 newsletter carried an article on the World Health Organization's review of numerous studies on comprehensive sex education which showed that it does not motivate kids to become sexually active. It is ignorance, not knowledge, that causes unwanted pregnancies.

On March 6, 1994, 60 Minutes discussed the RR "Sex Respect" and "Reality" curricula as implemented in Louisiana schools. An Ob-Gyn, Rabbi, and psychiatrist testified in court against the two curricula and the court ruled against their use. The school board, loaded with newly elected RR members, had "Kelly girls" strike the offending passages in the workbooks, but the kids could still read through the magic marker. The school board is appealing the decision.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS FOR CORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Charles Menapace	Incumbent
Jack Williams	Incumbent
Ken Dye	
David Guido	

Voter guide based on questions posed on page 3 enclosed for Cortland City newsletter recipients.

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

ABORTION FOE WHO SHOT A DOCTOR IS CONVICTED OF ATTEMPTED MURDER

"An anti-abortion activist who admitted in court in Wichita, Kansas, that she had shot an abortion doctor was convicted of attempted murder. Testifying that she had considered "bombing Dr. Tiller's clinic after she learned that the shooting had not stopped him from performing abortions," she also said that whether or not "she meant to kill Dr. Tiller was irrelevant, because 'it would have been right either way to try to stop what he's doing.'"

New York Times. 3/25/94

STUDENT CHOICE GROUP ON CAMPUS!!

We welcome the next generation of Choice to SUNY campus! A January transfer student from Hofstra University founded this group after quickly noting the lack of such an organization on our campus. Their constitution quickly passed the Student Senate with only a small amount of dissension, and it's now official! (Just as official as the Collegians For Life which was also recently recognized).

CHOICE FACTS

The out-of-wedlock birth rate for whites is now the same as it was for blacks in 1965 when Sen. Moynihan raised the issue as a fundamental cause of black poverty. Carol Reichert FPA

ROE VS WADE AS WOMEN'S HISTORY

Vivian Rose of the National Women's Historical Park in Seneca Falls spoke on campus in March. She said that the federal government is having a problem with the printing of a brochure that includes a timeline of important historical events for women. Guess which 1973 event they want to exclude? Also for the 1992 date it was noted that more women were elected to Congress than ever before and the Clarence Thomas hearings were cited as a factor. WRONG! Too controversial. The brochure has been held up for one year as a result.

NARAL CHANGES NAME AND EXPANDS MISSION

NARAL has added reproductive rights to its abortion rights advocacy. This is prompted by the following facts:

57% of all pregnancies in the US are unintended.

1 million teens get pregnant each year.

80% of teen pregnancies are unintended.

50% of all these teens give birth.

The feds spend \$25 billion on welfare for families started by teens and a pittance on prevention.

NOT SO CHOICE FACTS

Worldwide, 1½ million women die of pregnancy-related causes each year. Two hundred thousand die from unsafe illegal abortions.

Family Planning World Jan/Feb 1994

HATE RADIO

Excerpts from MS March/April '94

"I'm not listening to the radio. I'm listening to a large segment of white America think aloud. Is hate\talk radio a response to our need for an oral tradition amid the trillions of flashing images of the other powerful medium? If radio is a vessel for the American 'Song of Songs,' then what does it mean that a manic, adolescent Howard Stern is so popular... that Rush Limbaugh's wittily smooth sadism has gone to primetime TV and both vie for the #1 slot on best seller lists? Is it a collapsing economy that spawns this drama of grown people scaring themselves to death with fantasies of black feminist Mexican able-bodied gay soldiers earning \$100,000 a year on welfare.... a verbal stoning of anything different.

The audience for this genre of radio flagellation is mostly young white males. 75% of Stern's listeners are white males.

The National Review extols Limbaugh's conservative leadership as no less than that of Reagan and the Party provides Limbaugh with books to discuss, stories, angles and public support. Reagan, William Bennett and Robert Dole also give advice, counsel and friendship to Rush's passionate divisiveness. Right-wing radio puts hate to the airwaves and exalts it as freedom. As the Economist rightly observes, 'Mr L. takes a mass-market — white middle-class males — and talks to it as an endangered minority.'

Did the civil rights movement guarantee us nothing more than to use public accommodations while surrounded by raving bigots?

So asks the author of this piece, Patricia Williams.

Local slant on this. The Rusty Nail staged or stages a Rush Room — in the words of the author, "a place where bigots can capture the purity of a Rush-only lunch counter, a room where all those unpleasant others just "choose" not to eat."

WATER ON THE BRAIN: a civics lesson

"No, Roe vs. Wade are NOT two ways to cross the Potomac..."

"Yes, Whitewater IS meant for canoeing and rafting..."

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY PAPERBACK THE WORST OF TIMES

by Patricia G. Miller. Harper Perennial. \$12.

"Before the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, women seeking abortion were often forced to resort to illegal procedures. This book documents their experiences, not only on their words but also in those of abortion providers, police and children of those who died. 'Anyone who even ventures an opinion on abortion should reckon with what this book so vividly conveys.'" according to Le Anne Schreiber's earlier review.

New York Times Book Review. 2/26/94

RU-486, MADE IN AMERICA

"Until obstacles to selling the French abortion pill RU-486 in America are lifted, advocates of safe and accesible abortion will have to take matters into their own hands. Abortion Rights Mobilization, working with other feminist group, are doing just that. Frustrated by the delaying tactics of the French company that holds the patent, the group has developed its own copy of the drug and within the next few months will launch clinical trials to start the process of making the drug available in this country."

Lawrence Lader, President, A.R.M.

New York Times, 3/17/94



Coalition for Choice Survey of School Board Candidates

	KEN DYE	CHARLES MENAPACE	JACK WILLIAMS	DAVE GUIDO
(1) What is the single most important goal for you in your quest for the School Board?	The best education possible for my three daughters and everyone else.	A better education for our kids. Schools must do more these days because families are more dysfunctional. Schools provide a human family.	Continue work on prevention strategy for all areas. It is better/cheaper to have prevention than later intervention.	Get elected. Ensure we maintain high standards for students and staff. I believe in accountability, shared decision making and long range planning.
(2) What long range plan would you want for your school district?	I agree with Superint. Parks to have one administrator for K-12 curriculum development.	Compact for Learning. More businesses and parents involved.	To inform constituents for a time when they will vote on the school budget. Education is an investment that must be made for the future.	Relevant ed programs for 21st century. Policies to deal with social issues. Project staffing needs. Evaluate effectiveness. Maintain capital investments
(3) What do you see as the primary role of school counselors and to what degree are they free to make decisions based on their experience, professional knowledge, and understanding of district policies?	They need to deal with problems, and act as trusted adults and assure privacy.	They should handle crises and give advice for opportunities beyond high school. Breach of confidentiality should be allowed if suicide or harm is threatened.	To provide career guidance and support. To follow district policies to the letter. No violation of trust. Student's privacy should be protected.	Mostly help students select right courses. Are intermediaries bet. teachers, students and parents. Direct students to appropriate services. Don't know if they are restricted based on their understanding of school policy.
(4) Do you support the separation of church and state?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Absolutely.
(5) As individuals, children are allowed to pray now in school. Should this right be expanded in any way?	We said grace before meals at schools. It should be ok to give thanks for food.	Yes	We do allow a few moments for private thoughts.	Comfortable with courts' interpretations
(6) What is your position on the use of public tax funds supporting private and parochial schools as a voucher system?	No vouchers.	No, it would destroy public schools.	No, not in favor now. Until we have a legitimate way of financing this idea without removing funds from the public sector.	I oppose vouchers.
(7) Should creationism be taught as an alternative to the theory of evolution?	Present both.	Yes, I think both are taught.	If a majority of the community wishes to make it an issue, it should be taken up by state who determines what is taught.	This is hypothetical and thus difficult. Nothing wrong with exploring opposing viewpoints. That's what ed is all about.
(8) Do you favor teaching of age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education?	Yes.	Yes.	Yes	Needs community in put. Would be divisive if required in health class and opposed by community. Define comp. sex. ed. Would be open minded to a proposal.
List your memberships and endorsements.		St Mary's CC Citizens for Life, Knights of Columbus, Loaves/ Fishes and Cort Mem Hosp volunteer.	No endorsements.	Memberships: Cort. Elks Board of Trustees -- Chair 93-94, Am Legion Baseball-25 years, NEA NY Retired Teachers Assoc., Vol coach Cort. JrSrHigh

COOK COUNTY HOSPITAL RESUMES ABORTIONS

A reversal of a 12-year ban on abortions in this Chicago hospital occurred in September, 1992. Since then, the hospital has received 7000 calls per month for information about abortion. This is seen by the hospital as a mandate for services.

Family Planning Perspectives 9/93

BARBARA EHRENREICH SPEECH

"We didn't come this far (21 years since Roe v Wade) to lose our rights. [Let's] mobilize the 20,000,000 women who have had abortions to defend this right."

"As a biologist, I must tell you that 60 - 80% of all fertilized zygotes are washed out with the flow. Perhaps we should save and send our tampons off to certain people."

CHOICE QUOTE

1. "Operation rescue IS organized crime."

2. "...it is not the decision to abort but the decision to have the child that is treated with insufficient gravity in our society."

Kathleen Quinn Nov. 93 Mother Jones

NOT SO CHOICE QUOTES

"We have been unsuccessful in getting the Human Life Amendment passed or in getting Roe v Wade overturned.... When you get doctors out, you can have all the laws on the books you want and it doesn't mean a thing.... We get people in the hospital who know the doctor's schedule and can get a printout, which gives you a lot of stuff: the name, address and phone number of the woman, the gestational age of the fetus, how many abortions the doctor performs a week. That's how we found out about Gunn."

Interview with Joe Scheidler, author of Closed: 99 Ways to Stop Abortion and founder of the Pro-Life Network and the concept of clinic blockades.

Washington Post

"Let the wave of intolerance wash over you. I want you to let a wave of hatred wash over you. Yes, hate is good.... If a Christian voted for Clinton, he sinned against God. It's that simple... Our goal is a Christian nation... we have a Biblical duty, we are called by God to conquer this country. We don't want equal time. We don't want pluralism. [We want] theocracy. Theocracy means God rules. I've got a hot flash. God rules."

Randall Terry at Ft. Wayne Church congregation 8/15/93

MOST PRIVATE INSURERS NOW FUND ABORTIONS

Paying for abortion is nothing new. Two-thirds of all health plans and 70% of HMO's surveyed cover it

Cortland Standard, front page 3/94

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

1. What is the single most important goal for you in your quest for the school board?
2. What long range plan would you want for your school district?
3. What do you see as the primary role of school counselors and to what degree are they free to make decisions based on their experience, professional knowledge, and understanding of district policies?
4. Do you support the separation of church and state?
5. As individuals, children are allowed to pray now in school. Should this right be expanded in any way?
6. What is your position on the use of public tax funds supporting private and parochial schools as in a voucher system?
7. Should creationism be taught as an alternative to the theory of evolution?
8. Do you favor the teaching of age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education?
9. List your memberships and endorsements.

*More questions of this nature are available from the
Institute of First Amendment Studies at 413-274-3786*

1991 ABORTION STATISTICS FROM CDC

- 1,388,937 Abortions in 1991 — down 2.8% from 1990
- The number has stayed stable (within 5%) for the past 5 years
- Live births decreased by 1.2%
- The vast majority of abortions were to white, unmarried women under age 25.
- 99% were suction curettage procedures
- 52% were performed in the first 8 weeks
- 89% were performed in the first 12 weeks
- 1.1 % were performed after 21 weeks

ART THIEVERY?

The "Silent Scream" is one of the more graphic Right to Life films; it shows a fetus being aborted. (However, physicians questioned its medical accuracy). "The Scream" is also one of the world's most famous paintings. It was stolen and held hostage in Oslo, Norway during the Olympics. Right to Lifers suggested that the painting might be returned to the National Art Museum if the "Silent Scream" were shown on national N.R.K Television. NYT 2/17/94

NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION?

It's the Religious Right at its finest! It's a new television network brought to us by the Free Congress Foundation. As yet, most cable systems don't have room for it in their systems.

The intent is to get its viewers reinvolved in politics, to give home schoolers lots of content and to straighten out this political correctness. Ed note: We see it as 24 hours of Rush Limbaugh.



GAY BASHING GENERATES MUCH \$\$

Mel White, former speech writer for Billy Graham, Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson was featured on NPR Fresh Air and 60 Minutes in March. These former good friends now refuse to talk to White because he has recently declared his homosexual orientation. White says that their refusal is based on the fact that there is much too much money at stake to be gained from gay bashing and anti-abortion rhetoric.

CALENDAR

- April 27, Another GREAT TIME POT LUCK MAILING PARTY! 6:00 pm at Pat's
- May 3, NARAL LOBBY DAY in Albany - sign up
- May 3, Cortland School Board Election and City of Cortland 4th Ward Alderman Election (Lissberger v Thornton)

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

** Oct 1. "Meet the Candidate" Forum at the Cortland Country Club

PRO CHOICE LOBBY DAY IS MAY 3 CHRISTIAN COALITION NOW HAS FULL TIME ALBANY LOBBYIST

We need to match or out number their presence in Albany! Join us on May 3 and make your voice heard. The alternative is to pay \$25 to have a SUNY or high school student have the first hand experience of lobbying. It's young women who are under attack by the religious right. It is their access to reproductive health care, sex ed, and school based clinics that is under attack. Send us your "YES! I CAN GO" or \$25 and we will fund a student to go.

Mail to: CCFP
P.O. Box 385
Cortland, New York 13045

BOTTOM FEEDERS ARE AT IT AGAIN

The same folks who brought us the lawyers kit on how to sue your doctor for performing an abortion is now mailing huge post cards to many of the doctors in the country. One in the series said "Before you start thinking of doing elective abortions...Ask yourself how you'll feel when your other patients find out that you're an abortionist. Call it choice or call it murder, but it's not medicine." Another had something to the effect "Abuser of Women? Hangs out in back alleys?... Who is he? A Rapist? No, an abortionist"

This group, Life Dynamics out of Dallas, Texas also sends anti-semitic and scatological "joke" books to new docs to discourage them from performing abortions. One joke favors Hitler over an abortionist.

GRACIOUS, THANKS and MERC BEAU COUP TO:

To Julia and Connie for great parties.
To Tracey for years of financial handling and Betsy before her.
To Rhea for editing.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$10.00 for mailings _____

Other Contributions _____

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

JULY 1994
Vol.4, Number 1

The Breast Cancer -- Abortion Link

Truth or Propaganda of Religious Right?

Medical literature does link first-trimester abortions and breast cancer according to *Contraceptive Technology Update*, July 1994. The question is: *Is there a cause and effect relationship?*

The Religious Right, failing to make compelling arguments on moral grounds, is now trying to incriminate abortion from a scientific point of view, according to Michael Policar, MD, of Planned Parenthood Federation. They are skewing what data exist for their own political purposes, he says.

Scientific mechanisms explain the link. Cancer originates in undifferentiated cells that exist in the breast and that are spurred on by estrogen during the first half of pregnancy; high levels of progesterone come along in the second half and cause cells to mature and differentiate to allow milk production.

This differentiation allows the protective effect from pregnancy. When a pregnancy is abruptly terminated with abortion or miscarriage, the breasts become susceptible. Incomplete differentiation of breast cells in rats during pregnancy increases the likelihood that breast tissue will be susceptible to carcinogens.

There have been no large scale epidemiological studies. Some scientists state that breast cancer risk is higher in women who have abortions NOT because abortion is a risk factor but because full term pregnancy has a protective effect.

Of six studies done between 1969 and 1983, one showed a risk increase of 2.4 times; two showed an inverse association and three showed no association.

One 1986 study of 3300 women in Connecticut, and another 1988 study in Denmark showed a positive association. A 1988 Boston University study showed no association in 8000 women.

One year later two studies showing opposite results were published. The one with positive correlations was carried out with NYS Cancer & Fetal Death Registry. The study which showed no association was done in Sweden. It also used official computerized cancer and abortion records. The Swedish study said that women who had previous births before an abortion were subject to only 58% of the average breast cancer risk. Nulliparous women had a slight increase of 109% of the risk.

Three studies were published in Italy in the early 1990's. One showed a statistically insignificant increase in nulliparous women, the second showed a positive association and the third showed no association, and even an inverse relationship.

A U.S. study not yet accepted for publication found a 50-90% increase in risk but only for those who had abortions before age 18.

If there is a connection between abortions and breast cancer, all the more reason that family planning methods be improved, promoted and used. It is surprising, but clinics are noting that very few women are asking about this link. It could be that "pro-life" preaching may lack credibility. More studies on this link are needed.

Combat the Gains of the Religious Right

In 1982, Right to Life (RTL) candidates drew 52,356 votes on NY State ballots. In 1992, their vote total had increased to 225,000 votes.

FACT: Radical right wing organizations are working, organizing and training to become THE MOST POWERFUL POLITICAL ORGANIZATION in America by the end of the decade. They are "training people to be effective — to be elected to school boards, to city councils, to state legislatures and to key positions in political parties."

The NY Times Magazine

BISHOPS HOLD UP STATE BUDGET

Remember when John Kennedy was running for President? Rumor was that if he were elected he would get his orders from Rome. It may not have been so then but we're getting close to it now.

The State budget, according to a local lobbyist and observer of Albany processes, was held up by the Catholic Conference over issues of extending health insurance to 13 year-olds whose parents have no coverage. They also opposed extending School Based Clinics beyond elementary school.

Why their opposition? This health care may have to include reproductive health.

VATICAN ATTACKS POPULATION SUMMIT

The draft recommendations of the International Population conference to be held in Cairo in Sept. came under intense attack by the Pope. He denounced the UN policy that permitted "the systematic death of the unborn" and he warned that the "Cairo conference would signal the defeat for man." (sic)

The Vatican stated unequivocal opposition to abortion, most contraception and the definition of "reproductive rights." The Pope has written to all the presidents of the world to ask their support in opposing the UN policy.

The Vatican also opposes condoms for AIDs prevention and says that the UN's chapter on gender equality and women's empowerment shows an "overbearing emphasis on women."

In 1984, The Mexico City Policy was decided at a similar conference. Reagan administration officials altered U.S. foreign aid to comply with the Church teaching on birth control. U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican, William Wilson told *Time* magazine that "the American policy was changed as a result of the Vatican's not agreeing with our policy."

The Mexico City Policy, which banned U.S. support to international groups that provided family planning and abortion, was reversed on Jan. 22, 1993 with a stroke of Clinton's pen.

Family Planning World



ZAP HAS IMPACT

Lynn Olcott, the Director of Public Health in Chenengo County, discussed her county's effort to stem the increase in teen pregnancy. After hundreds of meetings and task forces and news articles and surveys, Lynn noted one big problem. No one told the kids!

Cortland, too, struggles with teen pregnancy. Three teens a week got pregnant each week in 1990. Enough children would be born to teens in 1990 to fill 3 kindergartens in 1995.

But we told the kids that we all had a problem. We trained them to be peer educators because kids get their information about sex from their friends. We used the abstinence based curriculum, "Postponing Sexual Involvement" that was just adopted by the entire state of California. Controlled studies in Atlanta show 4 times less likelihood of initiating sexual activity at the end of 8th grade with this curriculum; One third less after 9th grade.

Combine this youth component with our work with churches, parents, industry and schools and we show some good data in prevention.

The Jacobus Center of the Health Dept, the City Youth Bureau and Catholic Charities worked together to form ZAP (Zero Adolescent Pregnancy), a 10 year project to have fewer than 100 teen pregnancies by the year 2000.

1. In 1991, ZAP's 1st year, the number and rate of teen pregnancies dropped to an all time low in 20+ years.

2. We were able to maintain that drop in 1992.

3. In each of those years, 25 teens who would have been expected to, did not get pregnant. Put a face on each one of those teens. Think about how different their lives are now.

4. Cortland led the state in 1987 and 1988 in REPEAT teen pregs — higher than NYC!

5. In 1991, the repeat percent dropped from 35% in 1988 to 19%.

Perhaps these are statistical anomalies related to small numbers but these good two years of data coincided exactly with the first two years of ZAP's community efforts.

This is primary prevention! This effort prevented more abortions than the local RTL movement ever thought of preventing.

Yet they have, of course, been critical of these efforts because our kids talk about abstinence AND birth control. (We are so proud that our kids can speak publicly on abstinence!). Begrudgingly, they say that we may have achieved some degree of success BUT "we didn't do it the RIGHT WAY"... with no sex. Now they have a bedroom patrol?

POST CARDS GALORE

The Christian Coalition distributed 30 million postcards addressed to members of Congress to stop abortion coverage in the Health Care plan. The Catholic Church has done the same with 18.9 million postcards.

NEWS In Brief

THE GOOD...

- Freedom of Access to Clinics Act (FACE) passed and Clinton signed it.
- RU486 patent given to Population Council of NY which will conduct trials for two years. Expect it in 1996.
- Anti-choice Harassment Settlement: \$1,000,000. Houston jury ordered Operation Rescue and Rescue America to pay Planned Parenthood damages for disrupting clinics. (*Inside*, PPFA)
- Mother/daughter team arrested for acid attacks on Syracuse Planned Parenthood. John Arena, CNY Right to Life leader, implicated in hiring them for the attacks.

DESPITE CLAIMS, PATAKI IS NOT PRO-CHOICE

George Pataki appears to be the leading opponent to Cuomo this Fall. He does not support Medicaid funding for poor women or minor's access. He supports restrictive laws such as 24 hour waiting periods and biased counseling, and did not support the state clinic access bill. The governor is a key person in preserving women's rights in this area.

NARAL LOBBY DAY A SUCCESS

NARAL's Pro-Choice Lobby Day on May 3 was filled with workshops and meetings with Senators and Assembly members. The issues were school-based clinics, clinic access, prenatal consent/notification, and mandatory 24 hour waiting periods. The Catholic Bishops had been lobbying strongly on these same issues.

Crosstalk: Dialogue Across Generations, was an excellent workshop that focused on the pro choice experiences of women of all ages. Older women told tales of back alley abortions and their fight to make Roe v. Wade possible. The teen women, however, were most amazing:

Many people of my generation (I am 21) don't care about issues beyond MTV. I thought many teen women didn't understand the struggle for women's rights and equality. I stand corrected.

One teen spoke of secret phone calls and visits to a gynecologist and fears of being found out. They understood the need to fight for these rights. They understood that their freedom wasn't absolute.

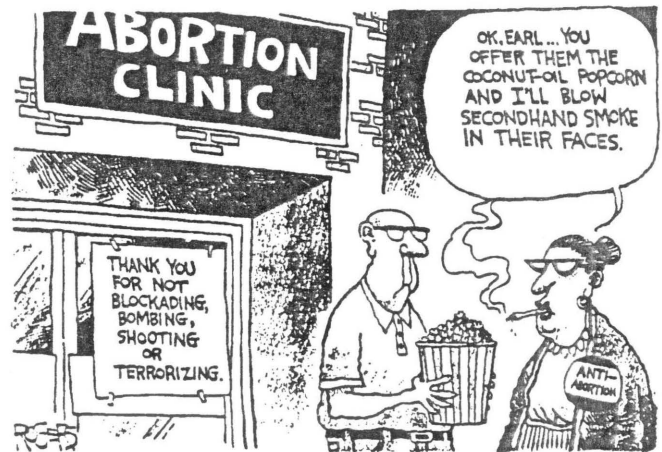
Another teen shared that she was in 7th grade, considered herself a feminist but had never done anything for the cause. She called NARAL and started to volunteer there.

Strong convictions were voiced by women so young—this was the highpoint of the day. Some battle weary folks had been ready to give up, to silence their voices. The teen testimonials gave power, energy and strength to them. The fight was renewed; they no longer felt alone.

Jennifer C.

AND THE BAD...

- D'Amato voted against FACE.
- NY State Court of Appeals says PCAP can fund prenatal care for poor women but not abortion. It stated that no undue burden would be imposed on women, even at the most extreme poverty level, if they have to pay their own.
- Operation Rescue people have no visible assets to pay fines (only hidden, transferred, unknown funds). Cindy Terry has a \$127,000 colonial house for sale and she has just purchased a Town of Windsor estate with a pond, 5 outbuildings and a huge house. Randy apparently plans to have seminars for Christians thinking of running for political office.
- Fessenden opposed a bill in the Assembly prohibiting discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation. ([Chenengo ProChoice Voice](#))
- Pat Robertson buys the Ice Capades. Add this to his International Family Entertainment Inc. which also owns the Family Channel cable network.



DRINK PRUNE JUICE — FLUSH RUSH CAMPAIGN

Protesting yet another foolish choice of the Florida Citrus Growers, CNY NOW demonstrated at the Dewitt Wegman's in April. A boycott of orange juice has resulted from the Growers' choice of hate monger Rush Limbaugh as their poster child. You could drop Tropicana a line. Apparently sales are down by 6% in March. One store in the state will only buy California orange juice.

WE LOST "HOPE" ON MAY 5TH

We learned once again that we cannot rely on the courts for reproductive rights. We need to keep our rights by voting, lobbying and making sure that good candidates run for office.

The Hope v. Peralis decision was lost in NY's highest court when it unanimously overturned two lower court rulings. The court said that the state will pay for prenatal care and births for poor women who qualify for expanded Medicaid coverage because of their pregnancy, but that it will not pay for their abortions.

LICKONA/BOUDREAU ABORTION "DEBATE" ON CABLE ACCESS

Two hours of two male doctors (one PhD and the other MD.) moralizing about a situation that they will never have to face. "What's Cooking" is a locally-produced cable access program with two college students as hosts. For those who misses it, the tape is available by writing to Box 385.

Why didn't we say "yes" when asked to debate with them? We're still a little jittery about those RTL folks—some of us have experienced violence from the local movement.

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CALLED YOUR REPS ON MAY 18TH—NATIONAL REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS CALL IN DAY. IF YOU MISSED IT, PLEASE DO SO NOW.

Congressman WALSH 202-225-3701

Senator MOYNIHAN 202-224-4451

Senator D'AMATO 202-224-6542

Tell them abortion is part of women's health care.

THE CHOICE PARTY: A NEW Political Party

To counter the gains made by the Right to Life party in NY, a Suffolk County group has formed the Choice party. Lucille DiVona, their leader, will run for governor. Cuomo said "no" to an endorsement from this single issue party.

The Right to Life party is the only official anti-choice party in the country. Bush accepted its endorsement in 1992. Al D'Amato also did and he obtained an 80,000 vote edge over Abrams. 244,900 RTLers voted on that line in that election.

Polly Rothstein of the Westchester Coalition fears that this candidacy would siphon off votes from Cuomo and elect Pataki. Third party spoilers have given us anti-choice James Buckley and Al D'Amato. Pro-choice people may night register or vote for cross-endorsed candidates on the Choice line, thereby giving the appearance that there are more RTLers which is not the case.

THANKS TO ALL OUR CONTRIBUTORS

CALENDAR

- August 19, LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR PRIMARY
- Sept 1, NEXT NEWSLETTER
- Sep 13, Primary Day Noon to 9PM
- ** Oct 1, 11 AM - Cortland Country Club "Meet the Candidate" Bruch sponsored by the Women's Coalition -- AAUW, LWV, SUNY Women's Studies, Zonta and YWCA Public Affairs Committee.
- ** Oct 14, Last day to mail your voter registration form.
- ** Nov 1, ELECTION ISSUE OF NEWS LETTER
- ** Nov 8, Election Day -- VOTE 6AM - 9 PM

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

April '94 Hickman-Brown Poll: ABORTION AND CLINTON HEALTH CARE REFORM

- 72% of American voters favor "covering abortions that are medically necessary or appropriate as part of the basic insurance coverage provided to all Americans"
- 68% believe that national health insurance should cover medical procedures that are currently covered by private health insurance. Only 14% of the voters were aware that abortion was presently now covered by most insurance companies.
- 53% rejected a rider to cover abortion. 37% said yes to it.

ACID BOMBER IN SYRACUSE

Two women have been arrested for putting butyric acid into Syracuse Planned Parenthood clinic on April 14 and into Dr. Yaffa's office on the day that he was honored for his abortion rights stance by the ACLU.

The National Abortion Federation has recorded 78 acid incidents in clinics in the US. Exposure results in coughing, headaches, overall burning sensation, and vomiting.

John Arena, noted CNY RTL leader, was implicated in the confession of one of the women. Apparently he offered \$2000 for 15 bombings.

Is this organized crime or what?

U.S. Judge Bars Colorado Limits on Public Money for Abortions

Ruling that Colorado is required to provide Medicaid coverage for abortions for poor women who were victims of rape or incest, Federal Judge Edward Nottingham, Jr. said Federal law superseded state restrictions. Prior to this decision, Medicaid funding for abortions was allowed only to save the life of the woman. This ruling follows the Administration's policy requiring states to provide such funds, and is the first decision involving this policy; suits are pending in Arkansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania. *The NY Times 5/7/94*

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$10.00 for mailings _____

Other Contributions _____

Choice

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

September 1994
Vol.4, Number 2

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

Another Doctor. . . .

DR. BRITTON MURDERED

The founder and leader of a violent anti-choice group called, Defensive Action allegedly shot and killed Dr. Britton, and a volunteer escort. Both wore bullet proof vests. A third person, a nurse married to the escort was wounded. Former minister, Paul Hill stands accused. Last year he appeared on TV interview shows defending the murder of Dr. Gunn.

He quoted John Calvin, "If a person is led to inflict punishment by a just and well-regulated zeal toward God, it is not his own cause, but that of God which he undertakes." Hill maintains that his views are "commonly accepted truths" of Christianity. He also claims that "one of the reasons we have the responsibility to keep and bear arms is so we may individually and corporately take all just action necessary to protect innocent life." He challenges his followers to take "defensive action" and he promises eternal glory for those who desire to take such action.

David Trosch, a 58 year old former priest turned up in an FBI conspiracy probe after Britton's death. He says that this violence agrees with biblical teaching. Also he notes that there is no need for an organized conspiracy to kill doctors because individuals will do it on their own. He promises more killings.

WORKING ASSETS FUNDS PROGRESSIVE CAUSES

This is sort of a united way via Sprint and VISA. Percentages of your bills are donated to environmental, social justice, women's and gay/lesbian causes. You get to vote on the causes. There was even a group to recap the money from the S&L crooks. Call 1-800-788-0898

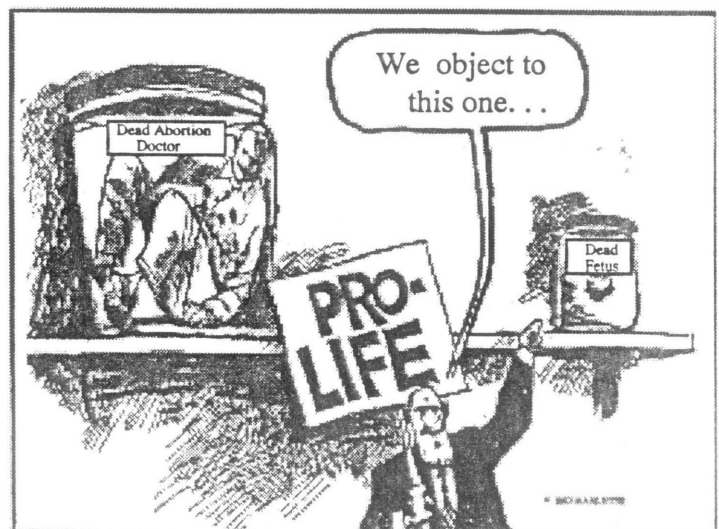
\$1 MILLION FINE FOR HARASSMENT OF WOMEN AND CLINICS

A Houston jury said anti choice extremists must pay Planned Parenthood this fine as punitive damages. During the 1992 Republican Convention, Operation Rescue and Rescue America harassed the Houston clinic and caused \$204,000 in damages and much more in extra security costs.

F. B. I. TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE CONSPIRACY IN CLINIC VIOLENCE

Although reluctant for many years to become involved in cases of violence against abortion clinics, the F. B. I. has launched a broad inquiry into accusations that the use of force against women's clinics and their doctors "is the work of a conspiracy by anti-abortion militants." A teletype sent to all 56 F. B. I. field offices one day after the murders in Pensacola, Florida, of Dr. John Britton and his unarmed escort listed the "names of well-known anti-abortion figures including the Rev. David C. Trosch, Michael Bray, C. Roy Mcmillan, Matthew Trewhella, David Crane, and Donald Spitz. All of them signed the 'justifiable homicide' declaration which circulated recently among anti-abortion militants, that supported killing doctors who perform abortions." The F. B. I.'s legal basis for pursuing this stems from a law passed in May making it a Federal crime "to block access to an abortion clinic or to use force or threats against employees or patients there." It is possible that if Paul J. Hill, the suspected killer of Dr. Britton, is found guilty of this Federal offense, he could receive a sentence of life imprisonment.

The New York Times 8/4/94



A LONELY HERO

Standing erect, with a steady gaze, the white-haired physician unfolded a harrowing tale of violence and harassment he has endured over the past three years at the hands of anti-abortion "protesters."

Dr. David Gorman, a gynecologist, provided ample evidence that those life-loving folks who specialize in violence against providers are alive and well, and living in Malone, New York. In a voice tinged with a Scottish burr, he described how, over the past three years, members of Operation Rescue, the Lambs of Christ, and others, have picketed his office and his home; locked themselves within a metal device in his waiting room; and conducted a media campaign in which he is referred to as a "baby-killer" and "killer of unborn children."

There have been bomb threats. A fire of suspicious origin occurred in his office. Most recently, as he was driving in his community, a car coming in the opposite direction headed directly at him, swerving only at the last second to avoid a head-on collision. On Wednesday mornings when he schedules surgical procedures (not confined, incidentally, to abortions), he wears a bullet-proof vest and is dropped off at his office by his son.

The results of all this? Although he has practiced there for many years, barriers have been raised between him and patients needing other gynecological services. Because of the media campaign against him, and because he is an abortion provider, Dr. Gorman thinks he may be perceived by some as lacking respect for life, and his GYN practice has fallen off by forty percent, although his abortion practice has remained the same. Last year his income was minus \$20,000.

Transfixed by this searing account, his audience heard that he had not come to ask for sympathy, but that he was a strong man from a strong family. He predicted that when the RICO laws are successfully applied and anti-abortion protesters are thwarted in their violence against clinics, an even more chilling scenario awaits us. Warning that the anger of the fanatics will not disappear, he anticipates that many abortion providers will be assassinated – in the darkness, not in broad daylight, as Dr. Gunn was murdered.

He ended by vowing: "Access must be guaranteed at every level. If a woman is not able to control her own destiny – to choose when or if she will become a mother – she will never be free. I am willing to die for what I believe in."

The audience, profoundly moved, expressed its gratitude in a standing ovation for this brave man. But that is really far from being enough.

Report of an FPA Workshop
Albany, NY, January 24, 1994

FOR CHOICE VIDEO'S WRITE TO CCFC
P.O. Box 385
Cortland, New York 13045



**"Our patients who made
their way through the mob
were badly shaken, angry,
frightened and bewildered."**

— Rosann Wisman
Planned Parenthood, Washington, D.C.

WHY DO CHRISTIANS USE BIRTH CONTROL?

In an article by this name appearing in OR National Rescuer, Randall Terry, founder of Operation Rescue suggests that we should trust God with the number of children we have. "The dreadful truth is that most of the excuses (\$, career, college, quality time) that women give for having their children killed through abortion are the exact same reasons we give for not having children....

He laments that much of the Church today is anti-child so "is it any wonder that the Church cannot stop child-killing (abortion)....

Terry worries—if Mrs. Washington had stopped at four children, we would have never had George.

"So what do we do? Hopefully, nobody reading this is on the pill or using an IUD. If you are, stop immediately. They are abortifacients....If you have been sterilized, seek a medical reversal...."

This gives you an inkling of Mr. Terry's thought. The pill and the IUD are not considered abortifacients by medical professionals.

VATICAN SEEKING ALLIES IN FIGHT AGAINST ABORTION

Fearful that the upcoming United Nations Conference on World Population will endorse abortion, the Vatican is trying "to line up support from Catholic and Islamic countries -- including Iran -- to block" such a move. "For months, Pope John Paul II has been hammering out warnings that the gathering in Cairo, Egypt, could end up endorsing abortion as a basic human right. Such a result, the pope said Sunday in some of his strongest words yet, would mark 'a great failure' for humanity."

The Cortland Standard

In her column which discusses the same conference, journalist Marianne Means notes that Vice President Al Gore will seek to persuade delegates "to endorse the availability of birth control for all women." She notes that a "draft resolution that supports women's rights and encourages reliable and safe contraception methods. . . does not specifically endorse abortion." This effort to avoid controversy by side-stepping abortion, however, did not work. Pope John Paul II opposes the entire family planning agenda anyway and has mounted a full-scale campaign to defeat it." She continues: "Vatican statements denounce the proposed document as a 'threat to the family' and as 'cultural imperialism' that seeks to impose the 'immoral' behavior of rich, developed nations on poor, developing ones. New York City's Cardinal John O'Connor dismisses the conference as 'obsessed' with population control and an 'almost fanatical passion to control the door.' Controlling the poor, of course has nothing to do with it. It is about providing them with information, education and access to birth control. Women can take advantage of this, or not, as they wish."

"Capital Insights: Crowded Planet."

The Cortland Standard 8/12/94

NYS FAMILY COMMITTEE AND PATAKI

This committee endorsed Richard Rosenbaum for the Republican nomination for Governor because he is unequivocally pro-choice. The Assembly is pro- and the Senate is anti- This is not expected to change; therefore a strong pro-choice governor is important. Pataki says that he is pro but in 9 years in the legislature, he has never voted for a women's right to choose. He voted against Medicaid funding for poor women's abortions and against stiffer penalties for clinic blockaders. The committee is also not comfortable with the company he keeps. Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition gave him a 100% rating on his voting record.

CHOICE BIT

Barbara Bush in her first interview since her husband lost his re-election bid in 1992, said she was in favor of a woman's right to choose abortion. Barbara Walters talks with the former first lady on "20/20" scheduled for September 9th.

The New York Times 8/12/94

RIGHT WING RELIGIOUS GROUPS MARCH ON

Rev. Jerry Falwell: "I hope (for) the day when, as in the early days of our country, we won't have any public schools. The churches will have taken them over and Christians will be running them. What a happy day that will be!"

Moving right along with this scheme, the RR fight for school vouchers and tax credits under the guise of "parental choice." They have also crusaded for school prayer and tax aid for religious schools, opposed sex ed, Aids ed, Head Start, school breakfasts and school-based clinics. They have fought child care programs, and pressed to censoring certain school books.

In Vista Ca., the majority of school board members are RR: they begin their meetings with prayers, have opened the door to the teaching of creationism, and opposed a state grant of \$400,000. for health counseling for low income students and their parents.

The Christian Coalition in Westchester Co. is allied with anti tax groups that seek to defeat school budgets. They include Change NY. One school board president told the NY Times that these groups have nothing to do with education.

Ralph Reed says, "The political power of the evangelicals and pro family Catholics is vastly understated. The advantage we enjoy is that liberals and feminists don't go to church: they don't gather in one place three days before the election."

Westchester Coal for Legal Abortion Newsletter

10 WAYS TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY

WRITE TO A NEWSPAPER EDITOR

CALL A TALK SHOW

WRITE YOUR REPS

SPEAK WITH FRIENDS

VOTE!!!

THANK YOUR REPS

START A SOCIAL ACTION GROUP

SERVE ON A CITIZENS COMMITTEE

GO TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

WRITE TO OTHER MEDIA

HERE ARE SOME ADDRESSES:

- Mr. Daniel Burke
Capital Cities/ABC
77 West 77 St.
NY, NY 10023
- Mr. Lawrence Tisch
CBS Inc.
51 West 52 St.
NY, NY 10019
- Mr. Rupert Murdoch
Fox TV
10201 West Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, Ca 90035

FACTS

- In April NARAL reported that the Christian Coalition was adding members at the rate of 11,000 per week.
- Violence, death, clinic harassment and restricted medical school programs have contributed to a severe shortage of doctors who do abortions. Services are available in only 17% of the counties of this country. There are only about 2300 Ob Gyns currently doing abortions.
- NYS experienced a 10% increase in teen pregnancy between 1980 and 1990. During that time funding and therefore access to family planning clinics were cut. Sex ed was eliminated in some school systems.
- Because of the near-ban on abortion coverage, at least one out of every five Medicaid-eligible women seeking abortion is forced to carry her pregnancy to term according to Janet Benshoof of the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy.
- Downward trend in numbers of abortions according to 6/19/94 Cort Standard. Possible causes: acceptance of unwed moms, a drop in providers, fear and intimidation.

PATH OF THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT

- *NYT reports on how the RR is attempting to take over the Republican Party.
- *Fred Clarkson of the Freedom Writer tells how the RR got 1000s of right wing Christians elected to all levels of public office using massive and disciplined bloc of voters.
- *For past 3 years, the RR fund raising has focused on "the gay agenda"; Apparently gays are more dreaded than women.
- *5/19/94 Wash Times "Leaders of anti-homosexual-rights groups across the nation wrapped up a top secret meeting" in Colorado Springs. 35 RR groups met to formulate strategies to deal with the gay rights movement.

GRACIOUS, THANKS AND MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

- Those who have given such nice words of appreciation for the newsletter
- Those who do newsletter writing and have pot lucks for the cause
- Those who work on political campaigns for choice candidates
- Those who represent women's and choice concerns for their unions

CALENDAR

- Sept 13, Primary Day
- Oct 1, "Meet the Candidates" Brunch at Country Club -- Tickets at YWCA
- Oct 14, Last day to mail voter registration to vote Nov 8
- Nov 1, Next CCFC Newsletter -- Election Guide edition
- Nov 8, Election Day -- VOTE 6AM - 9 PM
- Jan 1, CCFC Newsletter -- January is our once a year Annual Appeal

POPULATION

From a recent editorial in the Cortland Standard, the larger the world's population, the greater the world's rate of population growth. The Clinton administration unlike the two before it, supports voluntary efforts to curb population growth. It's at the top of the list of factors that will affect the future of the world, according to Timothy Wirth of the State Dept.

NARAL CHANGES NAME

Defend a woman's right to abortion but work to make it less necessary. That's what the new name reflects. Now called the Nat'l Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, NARAL will work for more contraceptive research, better sex ed in schools and better health care for women related to abortion, pregnancy and childbirth.

MISCARRIAGE IN DOLL CLOTHES

Oshkosh, Wisconsin police are searching for the father of a fetus found in a container that was dressed in doll clothing. They believe that the fetus was from a 15 year old whose father may be charged. *USA TODAY*

ABORTION PILL BOYCOTT

On July 7, abortion opponents announced a boycott of 76 drugs produced by the American affiliates of Roussel Uclaf, the French company that turned their RU-486 patent over to the US Population Council for testing and marketing. DO BUY COPLEY and HOECHST ROUSSEL PHARMACEUTICALS. *NYT 7/8/94*

SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH A FRIEND

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

\$10.00 for mailings _____

Other Contributions _____

Choice

October 1994

85
Y. 13045

November 1994
Vol.4, Number 3

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

All Politics Are Local

Share Enclosed Voters' Guide With Others and Take to the Polls on November 8th

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN CAIRO?

"Morality becomes hypocrisy if it means accepting mothers...dying in connection with unwanted pregnancies and illegal abortions." Gro Harlem Brundtland, Norway's prime minister, in call for legalizing abortion at Cairo population conference.

When the dust settled, probably the most important result of the International Conference on Population and Development was, as reported in the New York Times, the recognition that women should have a larger role in family planning. More than 150 nations agreed to the blueprint which stressed "the need for adequate information, improved general health care, and access to a wide choice of contraceptive methods." (9-14-94). Reproductive Freedom News noted that the ICPD document recognizes the "global problem of unsafe abortion, the need for safe abortions, and the importance of post-abortion care and counseling." (9-23-94)

Discussing the Vatican's opposition at the conference, Allan Rosenfield, dean of Public Health at Columbia, was quoted by the New York Times: *Given the strong and difficult rhetoric on all sides going into this meeting--if the Vatican has really heard the commitment of all these nations to the seriousness of the population, environment, and development issues and the dramatic importance of the status of women, the empowerment of women and the reproductive health of women--then that's hopefully a breakthrough in the Vatican's relationship with these kinds of programs.*

The Times quoted Ellen Chesler, the biographer of Margaret Sanger, in an even stronger statement: *I think this conference can be seen as ending 2,000 years of ecclesiastical authority or jurisdiction over marriage and women's lives. . . .Medicine and science, not religion and belief, will govern family planning.* (9-14-94)

PAUL HILL FOUND GUILTY UNDER NEW CLINIC ACCESS LAW

Paul Hill has been convicted of the murders of Dr. John Britton, 69, physician at the Pensacola Ladies Center, and

James Barrett, 74, a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel who was a volunteer escort and bodyguard at the clinic. He was also found guilty on a third count for the wounding of Mr. Barrett's wife, a retired Public Health Service nurse. Hill, a former Presbyterian minister and abortion protester, is the first to be tried under the four-month-old federal law enacted to combat increasing violence against clinics and abortion providers in the nation. Facing a maximum penalty of life in prison, he will be sentenced on December 9th.

Hill still faces state murder charges and, if convicted under Florida laws, could receive the death penalty. That trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 30.

VOTE SMART

Project Vote Smart is a not-for-profit, non partisan citizens project to educate American voters about candidates' key votes, campaign contributors, and their ratings by various special groups. Gain access to their huge data base:

1. Internet at gopher.gopher.neu.edu
2. Hotline 1-800-622-smart (yes, it works with 5 smart digits)
3. Voter's Self Defense Manual by calling number above.
4. By mail: PVS 129 NW 4th St. #204, Corvallis OR. 97330.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO RU - 486 ???

A New York City Gynecologist and abortion rights crusader has performed more than 100 abortions without surgery, using two drugs already on the market. Dr. Richard Hausknecht has "been criticized by medical researchers for using the method in his private practice before its safety and efficacy are determined in clinical trials. Insisting that he is doing nothing illegal--and authorities seem to agree-- he thinks this alternative to surgical abortion should be made available to women immediately. . . .Noting that his goal: *is to show the medical community that there is a safe, simple, effective, legal technique of terminating pregnancies that is private and inexpensive (\$500). . . .There are parts of the country where abortion simply isn't available, where patients have to travel hundreds of miles and face picket lines at clinics. This technique can be performed in a local doctor's office or even by a nurse, practitioner.* New York Times (10-10-94)

YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Someone called it to my attention that your July 1994 Newsletter contains the statement (in explanation of why the pro-choice side didn't participate in the "What's Cooking" debate): We're still a little jittery about those RTL folks—some of us have experienced violence from the local movement.

What is the evidence for this charge....?

If you have no evidence, what justifies making such an accusation....?

I have received anonymous harassing and hang-up phone calls after writing pro-life letters to the paper. The day after Dr. Boudreau and I published a letter on the dangers of relying on condoms to prevent AIDS and other STDs, a Christmas wreath on our front door was ripped off and vandalized....

Sincerely,
Tom Lickona

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ-

Upon reading your July newsletter I felt compelled to point out that it is unkind and scandalous to accuse the local pro-life group of violence. Tom Lickona informed me that one of your members had a rock thrown through her window after her name appeared in the local paper. You have no proof....Many of us have received prank phones calls after we have stood up in defense of life. I have had eggs thrown at my house.

....you state that John Arena apparently offered \$2000 to the aborturary bombers. Have you looked up the definition of apparently? This has been brought to his attorney's attention.

Please think before attacking people. Your imagination could get you in trouble. (No I am not threatening you) I pray for your conversion....

Your sister in Christ,
Mrs. Theresa Foster

Ed note: "You are right. "Allegedly" would have been a better choice.

Dear Editor: Summer '94

"Yes" I get your newsletter. It is the best I have seen.... Gratefully, Betty Bone Schiess, September '94 inductee into Women's Hall of Fame)

Dear CCFC: 9/12/94

Just a quick note to say congrats on a wonderful newsletter! I've truly enjoyed the last 2 issues—keep up the great work....

Program Director
NARAL/NY

REAL BABIES, ILLEGITIMATE DEBATES

Barbara Ehrenreich had an essay in Time Magazine August 22, 1994, criticizing welfare reform proposals created by the white-male, power elite (Moynihan, Clinton, Bennett, etc.) "Out of the kitchens and into those of Burger King" is the command from on high. "Churlish males have suspected for decades that homemaking is little more than a sinecure for the low-skilled and occupationally impaired," says Ehrenreich but what husband can look his wife in the eye and say that she does not work?

....The term, "illegitimate child" (as opposed to "out-of-wedlock") has been resurrected. "Filius nullius"—a child of no one. A child that no man claims becomes less worthy, less human. And these are what are clogging the welfare system according to Dan Quayle and Charles Murray. (Not withstanding, 60% of Medicaid in NYS goes to elderly disabled nursing home care and the average nursing home stay on welfare is 2 years.)

Ehrenreich maintains that "the ultimate target of the antiwelfare rhetoric are women, and not only the poor. Welfare moms became the scapegoats for the imagined sins of all womankind. But there is anger at Murphy Brown also as she is "officially manless, in defiance of the patriarchal norm....but the welfare Mom is too poor and despised to mount a defense....and she's not invited to speak."

KLAN PICKETS ABORTION CLINIC

16 Klansman and 9 skinheads picketed the Aware Woman Clinic in Florida in August. JD Alder, the "voice of the Klan", came dressed in a purple and gold lame robe. Others wore white robes and cone hats. Their signs read: BIG SISTER FEDERAL TYRANNY, FED GO HOME, AND FLORIDA IS KLAN COUNTRY.

Police from 11 jurisdictions used this as a training exercise in law enforcement. The media and bystanders outnumbered the demonstrators. Bystanders included: Refuse and Resist, an abortion defenders group; the Anti Defamation League; the Socialist Workers Party; and Zionists.

EXCERPT FROM JD ALDER'S KLAN HOTLINE RECORDED IN SEPT 94

"....too many white people are killing their own kind by way of abortion. You don't see the moulies(sp?) lining up for abortion. Hell, no! They keep those little black bastards and collect extra welfare....Abortion is racial suicide for the white race....the jigaboos(sp?) and other mud races are hatching little nigglets as fast as roaches.....(abortion) doctors deserve our undying hatred....Men like Paul Hill are heroes....we of the Klan would be willing to pay higher taxes to pay for tar baby abortions....justifiable homicide....

"Tip of the week...best prices for guns are at Anchor Guns at Port St. Lucie....Fort Pierce prices are just a little too Jewish for us....and never surrender your firearms....WHITE POWER."

Body Politic Vol 4 #10

CORTLAND WOMEN'S COALITION 1994 CANDIDATE SURVEY *(responses received by 10/24/94)*

QUESTIONS FOR NY STATE CANDIDATES

- If additional funds were available which TWO programs would receive your strongest support.
 (a) child care (f) displaced homemakers
 (b) family planning (g) rape crisis programs
 programs (h) research on women & AIDS
 (c) "Deadbeat Parent" (i) breast cancer research support collection
 (d) battered spouse programs/shelters
 (e) women's job training in non-traditional fields
- Women receive 69 cents to every \$1.00 earned by men in similar jobs. Do you support pay equity & comparable worth measures?
- I support a woman's right to choose whether or not to have an abortion.
- I support Medicaid funding for poor women's abortions.
- I support: (a) spousal consent for abortion
 (b) 24 hr. waiting period for abortion
 (c) parental notification for minor's abortion
 (d) parental consent for minor's abortion
- Over a million petition signatures were collected in Calif. to put single payer health insurance to a vote. Would you support a state single payer initiative?
- Proposed welfare reform will have mothers working outside the home after 2 years on social services. Do you agree with this?
- To protect the needs of children if welfare reform occurs do you support: (a) workplace policies for family sick leave days
 (b) reports/standards for quality of available day care
- Do you support legislation that prohibits blocking ingress to or egress from a health care facility?
- Should results of HIV tests on newborns remain "blind"?

QUESTIONS FOR U.S. CONGRESS CANDIDATES

- 1, 2, 3. Same questions as above.
- I support the Freedom of Choice Act.
- I support Medicaid funding for poor women's abortions.
- See Question 5 above.
- I support the following health care reforms:
 a) single payer e) Coverage for:
 b) universal prescription drugs
 coverage dental care
 c) employer reproductive health including abortion
 mandates long term care including nursing homes
 d) choice of and hospice care
 providers mental health / alcohol / drug rehab
- Only 54 women out of 535 serving in both legislative branches. What will you do about this?
- Should Admiral Kelso, the Navy officer in charge at the Tailhook convention, have been promoted just before his retirement?
- See #7 above. 11. See #8 above.
- Should gay & lesbian citizens be allowed to serve in the military & defend this country.

SURVEY Y = Yes * = See explanation below
KEY N = No NR = No response

	125 Assem.		126 Assembly		STATE SENATE		ATTY GENERAL	
	Luster	Kone	Fessenden	O'Hara	Livesay	Seward	Rosenstock	Burstein
1.	a, b	a, i	*	a, c	a, h*	a, b	NR	*
FESSENDEN: My policy is not to respond. LIVESAY: These are very tough choices. I selected these two based on long term societal implications & current adequacy of funding to address the need. BURSTEIN: It would not be within my power, as AG, to determine allocation of funds for these programs. It would instead be my duty to enforce relevant determinations of the Legislature. However, all these programs are worthy of ample funding & none should be ignored or shortchanged. It is perhaps an unfortunate sign of the relative priority accorded women's issues generally that we should be asked to make unnecessary Solomonic choices. Child care, family planning & battered spouse programs, while they do not displace the other cited programs, are fundamental predicates to women's & families' well-being.								
2.	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*
BURSTEIN: Moreover, under my leadership of Civil Service Dept., NYS adopted comparable worth as its compensation policy.								
3.	Y	Y		N	Y	Y	Y	Y
4.	Y	N*		N	Y	Y	Y	Y*
KONE: No Medicaid funds except rape, incest, health of mother. BURSTEIN: In fact, I delayed my departure from the Legislature (to assume new duties as a Public Service Commissioner) so that I could lead the fight against cutting off Medicaid funding for abortions.								
5.	N,N,N	N,Y,Y		N,Y,Y	N,N,N	N,N,N	N,N,N,N	N,N,N,N
SEWARD: While parental involvement in a minor's decision whether or not to have an abortion should be strongly encouraged, I do not believe it should or can be legislated.								
6.	Y*	N		NR	Y	N*	NR	*
LUSTER: I am co-sponsor of single payer legislation in NY; must be cautious with regard to affordability. SEWARD: NYS should await pending Federal action before undertaking any drastic changes such as a state run single payer system. In the meantime some legislative changes must be made to make health care & insurance less costly: significant tort reform in order to reduce physicians' & hospitals' liability & restore some sanity to jury awards; regulatory relief to reduce costly paperwork burdens on health care providers; insurance "portability" so that employees can take insurance with them. BURSTEIN: I favor single payer systems as most responsive to health needs of the people but don't think individual states are the proper venue for determining an issue of national scope, such as this. A single payer system in one state, or in a patchwork of states, could produce untoward & adverse results, such as loss of health providers & jobs to other areas.								
7.	Y*	Y*		Y	N*	Y*	*	*
LUSTER: Support for welfare reform depends upon level of services available & other specifics of the proposal. KONE: Support welfare reform with adequate child care provided. LIVESAY: Within current cultural framework, yes would be the correct answer. However, I believe many societal problems are due to devaluing of importance of the role of parents in their children's lives. More emphasis needs to be put on helping parents to be better parents. I support education, job training & good jobs for (parents) mothers. I am concerned only about the arbitrariness of these reforms & the presumption that care by the mother is not an important factor in children's lives. SEWARD: Yes, as long as affordable, quality child care is available. ROSENSTOCK: I support full programs for women that could be funded through implementing a progressive income tax. BURSTEIN: The welfare issue is an extremely complicated one. While it is the Atty General's duty to enforce laws enacted by the Legislature on this subject, it is also her responsibility to ensure that enforcement is neither discriminatory nor arbitrary. While I support the idea of permitting mothers who are able to secure employment, there must be training & actual jobs for them to go to before they & their children are deprived of necessary aid.								
8.	Y, Y	Y, Y		Y, Y	Y, Y	N*, Y	NR	Y, Y
SEWARD: This issue is best decided at Federal level so NY State is uniform with other states.								
9.	Y	*		N	Y	Y	NR*	Y
KONE: only if rights in Constitution for free speech & right to assemble are not restricted. ROSENSTOCK: I am a long-time activist in the fight for women's rights. I support affirmative action. I have served as a defender of clinics & the right of women to choose abortion. All defenders of abortion rights, as well as the entire labor movement should demand that Clinton send U.S. troops to physically defend clinics & protect a woman's constitutional right to control her own body. I join with others in protesting the murders of Dr. Britton & Mr. Barrett by a rightist thug in Florida.								
10.	Y	N		NR*	*	Y	NR	Y
LIVESAY: The mother should receive counseling & the option to know the results. SEWARD: I back the bill that calls for mandatory counseling to encourage pregnant women to be tested as being in the best interests of the mother & eventual newborn. This would allow treatment to begin before birth if HIV test is positive & mother consents.								

	25th Congressional		U.S. Senate	
	Jezer	Walsh	Moynihan	Castro
1.	c, c*	a, i	*	h, i
JEZER: This is a hard question. All these programs are worthwhile & underfunded. As a Fellow in Washington I drafted legislation, later passed, aiding women & minorities to enter the fields of science & math. I'm also a member of the Noreen Holland Cancer Research Bd. of Directors. This organization puts special emphasis on breast cancer. If forced to choose 2 programs, strong support collection programs & women's job training would be my choices. We must ensure families receive child support they are owed. Too many of these families end up living in poverty with children on welfare - a burden to the entire community. Non-custodial parents must take responsibility for their children. MOYNIHAN: Did not respond to survey.				
2.	Y*	Y		Y
JEZER: We cannot continue to degrade women by paying them less than their worth.				
3.	Y*	N		Y
JEZER: Without the right to choose a woman cannot control her future.				
4.	Y	N		Y
5.	Y	N		N
6.	N, N, N, N	Y, Y, Y, Y		N,N,Y*, N
CASTRO: Or a responsible adult				
7.	b,d,e (all items)	b, d, e (yes to all except reproductive health care. . .)		N,N,N,Y,*
CASTRO: For "e" coverage should remain up to individual plans				
8.	*	NR		*
JEZER: This question points out one reason I'm running for Congress. While a WREI fellow I noticed the lack of representation for women. I believe that I can identify with the diversity of our district & women in this nation. CASTRO: Once elected I will encourage & support other women running for office.				
9.	N	Not enough facts to respond		N
10	Y*	Y		Y
JEZER: Yes, the welfare system now doesn't work. We must find ways to move people off welfare & into productive jobs. Welfare must be a hand-up not a hand-out.				
11	Y, Y	Y, N		Y, N
12	Y	N		*
CASTRO: I support current defense department policy.				



\$42,000 IN DAMAGE AT SYRACUSE PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Butyric acid splashed in the clinic bathroom caused this damage. 30-40 people in the building needed treatment for breathing problems. Michelle Campbell, 18 and her mother Michelle Wentworth of Auburn are charged. Campbell, a teen mom, confessed and implicated John Arena of Rome for paying her to do it.

FORREST GUMP AND THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT WING

An editorial by Michael Lerner in Tikkun Vol. 9 # 5, asks how is it that liberals think that their discourses are value free as they accuse the Christian Right (CR) of illegitimately introducing values into public discourse? He says that the question they should be asking is "what is it that we are failing to offer people that makes them attracted to that right wing religious position?"

Liberals assume, he says, that the growing power of the CR is a reflection of some fundamental irrationality or worse—sexism, racism, homophobia.... Or that they are so well organized, ...or use TV so well and have so much money.

But Lerner suggests that folks are attracted because they are seeking a framework of meaning and purpose in a dominant ethos of selfishness. The CR apparently gains unconditional acceptance as a relief from the competitive ethos of the marketplace.

This as background, the author says no wonder that Americans love Forrest Gump as "a joyous celebration of the reconstructed image of themselves and the fantasized community of innocence." He offer Americans a "redemptive (sanitized) vision of American history and of themselves." Gump who is "less intellectual" doggedly sticks to his principles learned at his mother's knee. He works hard, gets rich, gets his girl, and has a smart kid. He is the "embodiment of American's fear about themselves—that they are not enough." Gump becomes the "myth of America as a country—we are well intended, sometimes a stupid giant that muddles through the world, but is ultimately the savior of the world."

CATHOLIC GROUP CHALLENGES VATICAN

Where are the Catholic women when the Vatican throws its weight around about birth control and abortion? The majority of them are on the opposite side but why don't we hear from them?

"'Catholics Speak Out', one of the leading church reform groups in the U.S., has launched an international campaign challenging the Vatican on its policy that brands contraceptives as 'intrinsically evil' and bans their use by Catholics." 3,500 Catholics—nuns, priests, and lay Catholics, including a woman from Syracuse, signed an open letter to the pope published in the 9\6\94 NYT stating that the Pope does not speak for them.

"The ad is a response to the voices of adult lay Catholics who yearn for church leaders who affirm the goodness and beauty of sexual relationships whether or not they are open to offspring," according to CSO coordinator, Sister Maureen Fielder.

Cort Standard 9\16\94

ABORTIONS DECLINE TO 1979 LEVEL

If this were due to prevention rather than harassment and lack of access, we would be delighted. To some extent this may be true but here are the facts:

84% of all counties have no providers.

94% of rural counties have no providers.

14% of med schools train students in the procedure.

In 1973 hospitals accounted for 81% of all abortion providers: now it's 36%.

Repr Freedom News 6\24\94

IMPORTANT SHORTS

1. In June, two House committees rejected anti-choice restrictions to health care reform proposals.

2. In June, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences—a lay panel of scientific experts that reports to the Vatican—deviated sharply from the Vatican's position by stating that it is "unthinkable...to notably exceed the level of 2 children per couple."

Repr Freedom News 6\24\94

3. Mexico is 90% Catholic yet it has one of the most vigorous birth control programs. The government endorses the work of private organizations to provide contraceptives and sex ed to teens.

4. Brazil is 75% Catholic and 88% of Brazilian adults don't follow church teachings on birth control and abortion. For women aged 25-44, that percent jumps to 90%. In the space of one generation, the average number of children born to Brazilian women dropped dramatically from 5.75 to 2.35.

NYT 9-2-94

DRINK ORANGE JUICE AGAIN

Rush Limbaugh's half year contract promoting Florida orange juice was not renewed. The Wall St Journal reported juice sales down and the NY Times said they were up. Either way the boycott seemed to suggest to the growers association that choosing a hate monger to promote their products was not their swiftest move. Of course they don't have a good track record.

Celebrate with a big glass of orange juice or a screw driver! Hate will not be tolerated.

LIBERTY AND SEXUALITY REVIEWED

Pulitzer Prize winner, David Garrow's new book is entitled, Liberty and Sexuality. It traces a very long and arduous battle to secure the right to sexual privacy as a fundamental right. Margaret Sanger's struggle to open clinics beginning in 1914; a half century of fight in the Connecticut legislature to overturn that state's Comstock law which said that birth control was obscenity; and the Griswald v Conn. decision in 1965 allowing married couples to use birth control were the precursors to Roe v Wade.

When Sanger's clinics were opened for poor women, they were raided by the police and patient records were confiscated. The Catholic Church and Catholic and Democratic politicians actively fought these clinics. The Church accused physicians and social workers of referring their poor women to the clinics. (Rich women always had access to birth control through their private doctors.)

Doctors' licenses were threatened when they staffed these clinics. Accusations of Communism were made against Sanger and her supporters. In 1959 the Nat'l Catholic Welfare Conference proclaimed that no public funds should go for birth control either here or abroad. Yet Catholic women used birth control then as now and defied their Church officials. A 1960 Gallop poll showed that 72% of the public believed that birth control info should be available to anyone who wanted it.

So what has changed?

Poor women are still harassed, there are still no perfect birth control methods, MD are harassed, the majority still support reproductive rights and politicians still interfere with this basic right to privacy.

GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

Those who distribute this newsletter, especially Ellen.
All the "Funners" who join in the pot luck mailing parties.
Our writers who write so well, especially Pat.

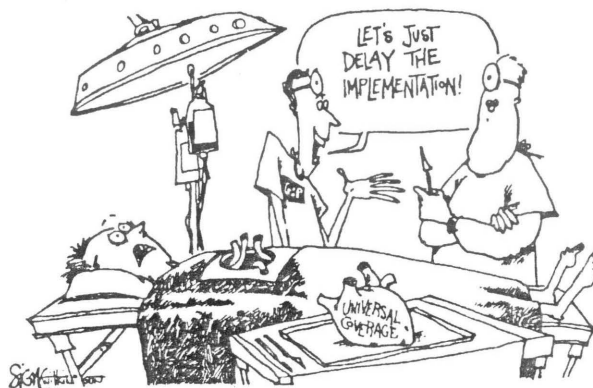
CALENDAR

- Jan 1, CCFC Newsletter - ELECTION ANALYSIS - This newsletter will include a self-addressed envelope and is our one and only appeal for our mailing costs.
- Jan 22, The 22nd Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade
- Mar 1, CCFC Newsletter

NO GUN FOR THE LOOSE CANON ON THE DECK

Ollie North was refused a renewal of his gun permit by a Virginia judge because he was "not of good character."

Sept 94 NOTES FROM EMILY(Emily's List)



HERE ARE OUR ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

MAILING	780
LAYOUT	150
PRINTING	240
PO BOX	30
TOTAL	1200

DON'T LET OTHER GENEROUS PEOPLE PAY YOUR SHARE IF YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE. WE DO LIKE TO PROVIDE OUR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE MEMBERS WITH FREE COPIES.

If you are interested in a program which will save you money on your long distance phone bills while contributing 5% of your total usage over \$10/month to CCFC please indicate your desire for more information on your pledge for this coming year. No Risk with FREE switchback if not completely satisfied.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Long Distance Fund Raising Info Requested _____

\$10.00 for mailings _____

Other Contributions _____

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

January 1995
Vol.4, Number 4



JANUARY IS ANNUAL RENEWAL MONTH

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA HAS GAG RULE

It's Deja-vu All Over Again (Sorry, Yogi)

An Oct 24, NYT's editorial recalls the 1988 Gag Rule, a federal regulation prohibiting the mention of abortion in family planning clinics that receive federal funds under Title X. Both Houses voted to get rid of it but Bush's veto was sustained and the gag rule was implemented for a short time in Cortland and nationwide. With the stroke of Clinton's pen, however, the gag rule was lifted.

But here, in small print in the House Republican "Contract with America," is the gag rule again—no information or counseling to low income patients with unintended or even life threatening pregnancies.

The Contract's Personal Responsibility Act proposes redirecting some \$40. B in Title IV AFDC monies to fund state initiatives for reducing out-of-wedlock pregnancies. This state-directed application of AFDC might well include funding of family planning services: hence the attachment of the new gag rule to these monies, according to Family Planning Advocates.

The public overwhelmingly rejected the gag rule before. Let Congress know that health care providers should not be told how to practice medicine or be censored.

ELECTION ANALYSIS

STATE

1. PATAKI RAN AS PRO-CHOICE WANNABEE. He did not debate, he spoke with no editorial boards other than the NYTs and he completed no election surveys. Despite his 100% Christian Coalition voting record, he ran as a pro-choice candidate. Why? To win! Now we will see if he knows how to walk the walk.
2. NYS Assembly experienced a net lose of 2 anti-choice persons and now numbers 95 pro-choice reps to 55 anti-choice.

3. NYS Senate had a net gain of 1 choice senator but the antis still have the majority 31 to 30.
4. Right to Life party did not do well. They garnered 96,814 votes in the gubernatorial race in '94 and 152,183 in '90.
5. Dennis Vacco, who failed to prosecute Buffalo Operation Rescue efforts and was taken off the case by a federal judge is now our attorney general.
6. Senator Joe Bruno sponsored the bill to defund Medicaid. He was just elected Majority Leader in the NY Senate.

FEDERAL

1. 60% of the Christian Coalition candidates at the local, state and federal levels won. One third of those who voted identified themselves as white, evangelical, born-again Christians. 70% of them voted Republican.
2. Our Congressional leadership remained anti choice.
3. 38% of the electorate voted.
4. The Republican parties in 18 states are controlled by the Religious Right. They have substantial influence in 13 other state Republican parties.
5. CHOICE was not the issue in this election. With Clinton in the White House and his appointees on the Supreme Court, the electorate did not see it as a big issue. Unfortunately we believed that also. Several candidates ran as pro-choice wannabees despite their records. The Republicans chose not to make abortion an issue.
6. All new leadership in congress looks to be anti-choice. Hatch to chair the Judiciary Comm. and Hyde the Foreign Relations. Gingrich as House Speaker and Dole in the Senate; Kassenbaum is mixed. Both houses have anti-choice majorities. In the House it is close to the 2/3rds override number.
7. We may see about faces on: FACE, the clinic access bill; RU 486 research; health care reform; and the gag rule which is called for in the "contract".
8. Crime, taxes and anti-government "change" motivated voters.

Please Renew -- We Need You!

HATCH !

Recall the ultra-conservative opinions of Orrin Hatch during the Clarence Thomas hearings. Now, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Hatch promises to be principal gatekeeper for federal judgeships and "he will not hesitate to engage the administration in combat."

Eleanor Acheson, a senior Justice Department official said that the environment has changed drastically and there could be "constraints" on the type of people proposed by Clinton.

This suggests that Clinton will be even less bold in choosing nominees. The implications for Choice supporters is clear, if one remembers the importance of Federal judges in many confrontations outside clinics where demonstrators attempted to prevent women's entrance. In situations where local police were unwilling or unable to protect women's rights, federal judges called in US marshals as done in Buffalo and Wichita, among other cities.

After 12 Years of Republican rule, 65% of the Federal judges were appointed by Reagan or Bush. Many "were unmistakably conservative." Building on that base, things are bleak.

NYT 12-9-94

ROVING REPORTER

Some interviews with pro-choice locals by a student intern:

"Reproductive choice is an extension of all life choices...."

40 yr. old

"I came to sexual maturity at a time when abortion was not legal. It was abundantly clear that one could die from illegal abortions."

46 yr. old

"I used to disagree with abortion until an incident occurred with one of my friends."

26 yr. old

"I'm young but still feel that a woman has the right to choose...."

14 yr. old

SURGEON GENERAL ELDERS FIRED

We must have an aversion to black women speaking the truth.

SPIES FOR LIFE

The Life Dynamics folks out of Texas gave us the "How to Sue your Local Abortionist" kit, a fake questionnaire to MDs, and an anti-semitic, anti-abortion comic book mailed to all Med students. Now they are on the prowl for MDs who will terminate a pregnancy on rare occasions as their patients' needs arise. They set up the physician by posing as a distraught mother with a pregnant 15 year old. A note at the bottom of the script says: "Happy hunting!"

SPEAK OUT Buffalo Pro-Choice Network Oct 94

KATHA POLLITT ON CAIRO

"...THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL POPULATION CONFERENCE THAT MOVED BEYOND THE STERILE OVERPOPULATION-VERSUS-OVERCONSUMPTION DEBATE, IN WHICH WOMEN ARE SEEN BY BOTH SIDES ESSENTIALLY AS A NATURAL RESOURCE TO BE IMPLANTED WITH IUDS OR BABIES AS OTHERS SEE FIT.

NOW, THANKS TO THE GLOBAL FEMINIST MOVEMENT, THE DISCUSSION IS BEGINNING TO PLACE WOMEN AT THE CENTER, AS HUMAN BEINGS."

**GLORIA STEINUMS ELECTION ANALYSIS:
NOT SINCE VIRGINITY HAS THERE BEEN
SUCH A PREMIUM PLACED ON
INEXPERIENCE.**

ABORTION NOT SALIENT CAMPAIGN ISSUE IN '94

The issue was not dealt with directly in most campaigns. Where it appeared on the ballot as a referendum we won 2 to 1. Even the Right to Life party focused on crime and taxes.

POLITICAL PARADOX

Many Religious Right (RR) folks oppose gun control, support increased military spending and capital punishment. Why do they support these seemingly anti-life positions? Some say because the RR is more right wing than religious and more male than female.



HEATING UP LOCALLY

In the past year, 3 county school districts have experienced some friction from religious right (RR) parents re sex ed curricula. Direct mail campaigns, call in radio and TV talk shows are having an impact in Cortland. Parents claim that sex ed is their sole domain and that it's better if their children do not know these things because they are too young (and probably never watch TV). It is ignorance not knowledge that motivates inappropriate sexual behavior. Many studies including twenty-one gathered by the WHO substantiate this.

BEYOND ABORTION

"A movement for abortion rights that fails to incorporate struggles against racism and other forms of domination will not make sense to women whose lives are structured by interconnecting systems of oppressions....In Sri Lanka, women are offered the equivalent of a year's wages if they agree to be sterilized. In the US, 25 % of Native American women have been involuntarily sterilized. Several state legislatures in the US are considering bills to offer cash to women who accept Norplant. NJ passed a law that capped welfare to women who have additional children."

Marlene Gerber Fried Social Policy Sum, 1993

WE DEFINE PRO-CHOICE

Witness the pro-choice wannabees in the recent election. Pro-choice is a majority view and a winning position for politicians but we must define the terms. Abortion must be accessible as well as legal. Medicaid funding is a must.

DID NEWT SAY THAT WE SHOULD TEACH FAMILY VALUES IN ORPHANAGES?

JIM BARRETT DIED WITH DR BRITTON

Mr. Barrett was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church and as part of their Social Action committee, he and his wife served as clinic defenders.

WELFARE REFORM

With the proposed reforms, we will be denying welfare to young teen moms. Would it not be far better to prevent those pregnancies in the first place?

In Cortland the teen pregnancy prevention project called, ZAP appears to be having some positive impact. In 3 of the past 4 years of the project, the pregnancy rates are lower than they have been in 20+ years. We are talking teen pregnancy prevention here, not abortion. This is the primary prevention that should always be the goal.

"....Although teenagers account for only 10 % of all births statewide, families started by teens giving birth account for 60% of the entire AFDC welfare caseload.

This translates into a cost to the state of nearly \$2 billion each year for AFDC, Medicaid and food stamps alone—to say nothing of housing, foster care, and other support services. We believe this is a strong argument in favor of increased funding for cost-effective family planning services to prevent unintended pregnancies among teenagers, and for placing a renewed emphasis on sex education in schools. Making sure that teens get the information and services they need to avoid too-early childbearing—and by extension avoid becoming welfare dependent—must be a key element of any successful plan to reduce welfare costs."

Carol Reichert of Family planning Advocates

PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF TOMPKINS ON HIT LIST

PPTC was one of 20 sites throughout New York State targeted for an anti-choice bombing attack with butyric acid. PP of Syracuse had \$50,000 worth of damage done from such an attack. John Arena and an Auburn woman were recently convicted of this crime. These two people have picketed PPTC.

BIG THREE COME TOGETHER FOR ABORTION CLINIC PROTEST

Billed as a major challenge to FACE (Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act) 3 national anti abortion rights groups (Operation Rescue, Rescue America, and Pro-Life Action Network) could only produce 68 protesters at the 7/7/94 picket of 2 Arkansas abortion clinics. Large numbers of abortion rights advocates at a third clinic kept protesters away. At all sites the protesters were outnumbered. NYT 7/8/94

Ed note: The new federal law may indeed be working. It's nice to have some law and order to defend constitutional rights.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

When the Supreme Court ruled that RICO could be used to show conspiracy and the "organized crime" aspects of the clinic terrorists, a chill went through activists. The NYT suggested the the RICO decision would have imperiled Martin Luther King's efforts.

THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE COULDN'T VOTE IN 1900; THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE DID NOT VOTE IN 1994.



GROWING UP IN A SOCIALLY TOXIC ENVIRONMENT

Below are reforms suggested for a more healthy environment for our children from a book to be published in 1995 cited in the most recent Cornell Human Ecology Alumni newspaper:

1. Paid and alternating parental leave until child is at least 6 months
2. Regular home visits by RN or educators to first time parents.
3. Well child visits every 6 months.
4. New role model for fatherhood—career does not take precedence.
5. More parent-teacher interaction.
6. TV off 3 hours a night.
7. No more than 500 kids in any one high school.
8. Mass media to reduce violence.

"Child rearing is by design or default always a community activity. ...parents need more social support in their roles."

NO PLACE TO HIDE CAMPAIGN

Abortion opponents see the provider-physicians as the most vulnerable link to abortion access. All of the following have been used to dissuade them: murder, shooting, bombings, arson, vilification, aggressive attacks, phone line tie ups, entrapment, harassment of families and staff, threats, lawsuits, and random violence, much of which is laid out in "The Armies of God" manual. In the past 2 years, 2 doctors have been murdered and 5 wounded.

THANKS TO THE MAILERS, THE VOTERS AND THE CONTRIBUTORS

CALENDAR

- • Jan 22, Celebration of Roe v. Wade Anniversary
- • Jan 23 - 24, Family Planning Advocates Annual Meeting • Albany, N.Y. (518)-436-8408
- ** Mar 1, Next newsletter if we get funding. See below.

IF NOT US, THEN WHO? WE ASK FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE ONCE A YEAR. IF YOU ARE READING THIS, WON'T YOU PLEASE HELP PAY FOR THE PRINTING AND POSTAGE. WE ARE UNIQUE, PERSISTENT AND WE ARE LOCAL. WE ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS AND WE RECEIVE NO FUNDING EXCEPT FROM YOU. NOW AFTER THE RUINOUS 1994 ELECTIONS, THE REPUBLICANS ARE PREPARED TO DISMANTLE OUR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND THE DEMOCRATS ARE "LEADERLESS, CLUELESS, AND POISED TO GO ALONG WITH THE REPUBLICANS."

Newsletter/Membership Form

NEVER THINK THAT WE ARE TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE • KEEP INFORMED

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Contribution: \$50 ___ \$25 ___ \$20 ___ \$10 ___

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice • P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

March 1995
Vol.4, Number 5

CLINIC VIOLENCE ESCALATES WITH BROOKLINE MURDERS

JOHN SALVI

This man is accused of killing 2 people and wounding 5 others in two Brookline clinics. He was arrested in Virginia, accused of shooting up another clinic. Salvi wrote a 6 page letter while awaiting extradition to Massachusetts. In it he said that if acquitted, he wants to become a Roman Catholic priest and if guilty, he chooses capital punishment.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO SENDS FEDERAL MARSHAL TO LOCAL CLINICS

On Jan 17, (just 2 weeks after the Brookline clinic receptionists murders) the County Health Department's Jacobus Center for Reproductive Health was visited by a federal marshal. He reviewed security and discussed bomb detection and related matters. The Center does not do abortions but was picketed some years back. Its major function is to prevent the need for abortion among its 3300 patients according to Director Andrea Rankin.

The Justice Dept. sent a follow up letter to the Jacobus Center and a copy was sent to the local Chief of Police who also followed through with a security review. Other medical facilities and providers of abortion services were also visited.

MARCH AGAINST VIOLENCE APRIL 9

Domestic violence, clinic violence, and economic violence are the major themes. NOW is organizing a huge rally on the Washington Mall on Sunday, April 9. On Saturday and Sunday there will be the first national display of the Clothesline Project. This alone will be an unforgettable experience. A young women's conference on violence will also be part of the weekend (4\7-4\8).

Call Linda Seyler at 533-4039 (Lansing) to reserve your place on the Redeye Special—it will leave at midnight on Saturday and return late Sunday. Please do it NOW! If you cannot go, we can find a student to go in your place if you can help finance the trip. See clip-out on back page.

CARDINAL LAW CALLS FOR MORATORIUM ON CLINIC PROTESTS

In the wake of the Brookline murders, the Archbishop of Boston called for a halt to protests to de-escalate the anti-choice violence.

WHY ARE CLERGY INVOLVED WITH ABORTION?

Clergy are often the first people women turn to in the situation of an unplanned pregnancy. Before abortion was legal there was something of a clergy underground which functioned to refer desperate women to "safe" providers.

A DEADLY, DYING FRINGE: THE ABORTION WAR IS NOT HEATING UP. IT'S FALLING APART

The tragedy of the [Brookline] slayings should not confuse us as to what we are witnessing here: people who kill for 'life' represent the last throes of a struggle in which armed terrorism represents the final fringe."

David Garrow NYT 1/6/95

A MEMORABLE KEYNOTE ADDRESS: UPHOLDING THE SPIRIT OF CHOICE

If you haven't yet heard or seen Jewell Jackson McCabe, it's a cinch that you will before very long. This wonderful, dynamic woman who told the Reverend Jesse Jackson that she would not be "auxiliarized," is the chair and founder of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and take our word for it, she's not going to go away! An indication of her leadership status is that she was considered for the Executive Directorship of the N.A.A.C.P.

As keynote speaker at the 18th Annual Legislative Conference of Family Planning Advocates of New York State, Ms. McCabe encouraged listeners as she paralleled the civil rights struggle of blacks with the current battle for women's right to choose. Just as blacks faced intimidation and violence in the 60's as they attempted to exercise their

constitutional right to vote, so women today, in the 90's, face harassment, terrorism, and murder, as they attempt at clinics to seek their legal right to abortion.

Drawing still another parallel to illustrate government's snail-like response to clinic violence, Ms. McCabe conjectured that if we **"had had the same threats, attacks, and terrorism on the McDonald's chain around the country as we have had on women's clinics, there would have been absolutely no worry about their getting protection."**

This vibrant, exciting woman exhorted the conference audience to fight the good fight; and by her example, she inspired her listeners to turn her words into their deeds.

Albany, New York. January 23, 1995



A REPORT FROM A MILWAUKEE ABORTION CLINIC, WHERE THE CROWD OUTSIDE BRANDISHES THE WEAPONS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND THE WOMEN INSIDE BEAR THE WEIGHT OF THEIR CHOICE

In the January issue of *Harper's* an article, "Violent Certainties," explores the actions of members of Missionaries to the Preborn, Operation Rescue, CALL, and the Lambs of Christ at clinics providing reproductive services to women in Milwaukee, Minnesota, and Madison, Wisconsin, in 1993. The parking lots of these clinics represented the physical and philosophical space where the anti-choice and pro-choice forces confronted each other.

The author writes:

The battle over the parking lot is a battle to protect an open space, and abortion is only the pretext. It could be homosexuality or gun control or some aspect of the environmental movement or an issue of race or education. On one side of the fence, holding signs and swastikas and muttering imprecatory prayers, there is a group of men and women who will answer all of life's questions for you. They will tell you exactly what to believe and how to act, once you have chosen them or enabled them to choose you. And on this side of the fence—right up against the fence, holding the others at bay—there is a group of men and women who do not pretend to have any answers. Their job is to make it possible for you to enter the parking lot, but they will not tell you what to do when you get there. You can keep walking toward the clinic

entrance. You can stop and pray. You can get in your car and drive home. You can go up to the man who is holding the sign that says I WILL ADOPT YOUR BABY and ask him how he knows whether Jesus disapproves of abortion, or of birth control, or of homosexuality. No one in the parking lot pretends that having to make your own decisions is a source of relief. But the relief of having someone else make them for you vanishes quickly, leaving the taste of ashes in your mouth.

Verlyn Klinkenborg

WORDS KILL AD

"Words are like bullets—they can be used to kill" was the headline of the Planned Parenthood full page ad in the NYT on 1/5/95 placed in response to the Brookline murders. Who is really responsible for the recent deaths at abortion clinics?

"Words of hate helped pull the trigger last Friday in Massachusetts. Two innocent women are dead today because leaders of the extreme religious right are heedlessly using a war of words to inspire killing. They call abortion providers 'baby killers.' They call hardworking, law-abiding citizens 'murders and sinners.' They trivialize the Holocaust by equating it to abortion." In their speeches, sermons, and placards, they encourage the anti-choice followers to hate. Worst of all, they inspire the "justifiable homicide" people to act.

TWO SENTENCED FOR ACID-DUMPING AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD\MD OFFICE

John Arena and Michelle Wentworth received a minimal sentence for plotting the acid attacks on 2 medical facilities that caused \$50,000 in damages. Wentworth's 18 year old daughter carried out the attacks and had previously been sentenced.

The two abortion opponents each got 500 hours of community service and 5 years probation. DA William Fitzpatrick was "outraged" with the sentence—no fine, no restitution, no order of protection for the facilities. The case will be turned over to the US Justice Dept for possible prosecution.

Cort. St. 3/3/95

ACLA—A NEW INCARNATION OF THE RIGHT TO LIFE

The American Coalition of Life Activists (ACLA—clever?) claims to be a new peaceful anti-abortion group, but 5 of the leaders have signed Paul Hill's "Justifiable Homicide" petition. Several are arrested frequently at clinics and several have been quoted defending the use of lethal force to stop abortion. None of this, however, as officers or organizers of ACLA.

It's the ACLA that released the "Deadly Dozen" list of abortion doctors. Will this become the hit list like the "Wanted" posters on Drs. Gunn, Britton and Wayne Patterson?

WRITE NOW

Source: P.P.N.Y.C.

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE

P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, CONGRESS LEADERSHIP



PRESIDENT
BILL CLINTON (D)
Took Office: 1993

The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
(202) 456-1414 / 456-2883



VICE PRESIDENT (presiding officer of the Senate)
ALBERT GORE (D)
Took Office: 1993

S-212, Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-8391 / 456-7044

U.S. SENATE

MAJORITY LEADER

Robert Dole (R-Kansas)
(202) 224-6521 / 228-4569

MINORITY LEADER

Thomas A. Daschle (D-South Dakota)
(202) 224-2321 / 224-2047

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia)
(202) 225-4501 / 225-4656

MAJORITY LEADER

Richard K. Armey (R-Texas)
(202) 225-7772 / 225-7614

MINORITY LEADER

Richard A. Gephardt (D-Missouri)
(202) 225-0100 / 225-7452

U.S. HOUSE

25th C.D.

JAMES T. WALSH (R-C)

Took office: 1989



- Title X/Gag Rule
- Hyde
- FACE

Area represented: Onondaga and
Cortland counties, parts of Cayuga,
Tioga, and Broome counties

1330 Longworth House Office Bldg.
(202) 225-3701 / 225-4042

100 S. Clinton Street, P.O. Box 7306
Syracuse, New York 13261
(315) 423-5657 / 423-5669

Appropriations

US House of Representatives: 202-225-3121

- or write -

The Honorable _____

US House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

US Capitol Switchboard at: 202-224-3121.

SENATORS



ALFONSE M. D'AMATO (R-C-RTL)

Took office: 1981

- + Title X / Gag Rule
- FACE
- Hyde

Area Represented: all of New York State

520 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6542 / 224-5871

Seven Penn Plaza, Room 600
New York, NY 10001
(212) 947-7390 / 564-5066

Appropriations; Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs, *Chair*; Select Committee
on Intelligence



DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN (D-L)

Took office: 1977

- + Title X / Gag Rule
- + FACE
- + Hyde

Area Represented: all of New York State

464 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-4451 / 228-3815

405 Lexington Avenue, Suite 4101
New York, NY 10174
(212) 661-5150 / 826-4934

Environment & Public Works; Finance; Foreign Relations; Rules & Adminis-
tration

US Senate: 202-224-3121

- or write -

The Honorable _____

US Senate

Washington, DC 20510

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

TITLE X/ GAG RULE (U.S. Senate)

Vote taken in 1992. To reauthorize Title X, the national family planning program; to reverse the Bush Administration's gag rule imposed on medical professionals who work in Title X-funded clinics; and to bar the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from using federal funds to enforce the gag rule.

TITLE X/ GAG RULE (U.S. House)

Vote taken in 1992. To reauthorize Title X, the national family planning program; to reverse the Bush Administration's gag rule imposed on medical professionals who work in Title X-funded clinics; and to override then-President Bush's veto of the bill. The attempt to override failed by 10 votes.

HYDE (U.S. House)

Vote taken in 1993. Amendment to Labor/HHS Appropriations bill that prohibits funds from being spent for abortion except in cases of rape, incest, or life endangerment. (Approved, 255-178.)

HYDE (U.S. Senate)

Vote taken in 1993. To approve the Senate Appropriations Committee's amendment striking House-passed language that would have provided Medicaid funding for abortion only in cases of rape, incest, or life-endangerment. (Defeated, 59-40.)

FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO CLINIC ENTRANCES ACT (FACE) (U.S. Senate/House)

Vote taken in 1994. To establish criminal and civil penalties for blocking access to reproductive health care facilities. (Approved by both the House, 241-174, and Senate, 69-30.)

CENTRAL / WESTERN NEW YORK**NYS ASSEMBLY**

126th A.D.

DANIEL J. FESSENDEN (R)

Took office: 1993



- Medicaid
- + Access
- + School Clinics

Area represented: Parts of Chenango County, parts of Cortland County, all of Cayuga County

723 LOB

(518) 455-5878 / 455-3895

268 Genesee Street

Auburn, NY 13021

(315) 255-3045 / 255-3048

Social Services

125th A.D.

MARTIN A. LUSTER (D)

Took office: 1989



- + Medicaid
- + Access
- + School Clinics

Area represented: Tompkins County, Cortland, Cortlandville

639 LOB

(518) 455-5444 / 455-4640

106 East Court Street

Ithaca, NY 14850

(607) 277-8030

(Call for other district office locations.)

Health

NEW YORK STATE ADMINISTRATION

GOVERNOR

GEORGE E. PATAKI (R-C)

Took Office: 1995



State Capitol

Albany, NY 12224

(518) 474-8390

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH McCaughey (R-C)

Took Office: 1995



Lieutenant Governor's Office

State Capitol, Room 326

Albany, NY 12224

(518) 474-4623 / 473-2444

ATTORNEY GENERAL
DENNIS VACCO (R-C)

Took Office: 1995

New York State Department of Law
State Capitol

Albany, NY 12224

(518) 474-4330 / 474-8995

120 Broadway, 25th Floor
New York, NY 10271

(212) 416-8519 / 416-8942

STATE COMPTROLLER

H. CARL McCall (D)

Took Office: 1993



Alfred E. Smith State Office Building

Albany, NY 12236

(518) 474-9595 / 847-9499

NYS SENATE

50th S.D.

JAMES L. SEWARD (R-C)

Took office: 1987



- + Medicaid

Area represented: Cortland, Otsego and Schoharie counties, and parts of Chenango, Herkimer, and Tompkins counties

805 LOB

(518) 455-3131 / 455-3123

41 South Main Street

Oneonta, NY 13820

(607) 432-5524 / 432-4281

Education

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP**ASSEMBLY****SPEAKER**

Sheldon Silver

932 LOB, (518) 455-3791

MAJORITY LEADER

Michael J. Bragman

926 LOB / 436 CAP, (518) 455-4567

MINORITY LEADER

Clarence Rappleyea

933 LOB / 340 CAP, (518) 455-3741/51

SENATE**MAJORITY LEADER**

Joseph L. Bruno

409 LOB, (518) 455-3191

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

information not yet available

MINORITY LEADER

Martin Connor

415 LOB, (518) 455-2451

KEY TO VOTING RECORDS

In this guide, we report legislators' most recent votes on important reproductive rights issues. Voting records are not given for newly elected people, except for state legislators who have moved from the Assembly to the Senate, or from the state legislature to Congress. Since the issues are the same, the votes are

NEW YORK LEGISLATION**LEGAL ABORTION**

Vote taken in 1970. To permit abortion to be performed by physician within the first 24 weeks of pregnancy. (Signed into law by then-Governor Rockefeller.)

REPEAL

Vote taken in 1972. To repeal legal abortion. (Passed by both houses, vetoed by then-Governor Rockefeller.)

MINORS

Vote taken in 1976 and 1982. To restrict access of women under 18 to legal abortion. (Not signed into law by then-Governor Carey. Since 1982, no such bill has come out of either a Senate or an Assembly committee and reached the floor for a vote.)

MEDICAID

A crucial vote that has been taken every year since 1978. To eliminate state funding for poor women's abortions. Votes listed are the most recent taken between 1992-1994.

ACCESS (Assembly)

Vote taken in 1994. To make blocking access to health care facilities a crime of aggravated harassment. (Approved 107-36.)

SCHOOL CLINICS (Assembly)

Vote taken in 1994. To create a permanent demonstration program of school-based primary health care services. (Approved 116-29.)



CLINIC DEFENSE

Kathy Spiller of the Feminist Majority leads the largest national clinic defense project in the country. They monitor clinic violence, and had warned the Florida police that Dr. Britton was being tracked by known extremists. They knew that Paul Hill paid cash for a house in Florida one and a half years before he murdered Britton. They knew that Hill's wife and 3 children left town 3 days before the murder with \$10,000 in cash. They knew that John Burke of Rescue America wore a suit to the protest at the clinic where Britton worked on the day of his murder. He only did that when the press was expected.

Donna Bray heads the Defenders of the Defenders of Life defense fund. Like Paul Hill, she also has a Justifiable Homicide petition. Bray claims that Michael Griffin acted alone when murdering Dr. Gunn, as did Hill and Salvi. Despite some patterns of others involvement, there have been no other convictions in these cases.

Salvi by-passed 182 other abortion clinics between Brookline and the clinic he shot up in Norfolk, Va. Why Norfolk? This is the home of another justifiable homicide leader. The Feminist Majority had very recently helped that clinic review its security. They added 2 armed guards. Perhaps this action saved lives that day.

OPEN UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

You are not alone if you do not know where to write first. All state and federal programs are under new scrutiny with the 1994 elections. Neither the House or the Senate have pro-choice majorities. So we must defend the constitution and democracy!

There were 7 RTL bills introduced in the 1st days of Congress including the unborn babies "bill of rights." Enclosed find information on your representatives voting records and their contact information.

TELL YOUR STATE REPS

1. NYS spends almost \$2 billion each year on AFDC, Medicaid, and food stamps alone to support families that were started by a teen.
2. Teens account for 10% of all births in the state but 60% of the entire AFDC caseload is made up of families started by a teen.
3. Pass the Health Care Anti-Violence Act (S.103). It passed the Assembly already.
4. Support Medicaid funding for abortion for poor women.
5. Oppose mandatory parental involvement for teens seeking abortions. This could harm teens from abusive or dysfunctional families.
6. Oppose a 24 hour mandatory delay or biased counseling before a woman can have an abortion. **THIS IS UNDUE BURDEN GIVEN ESCALATING CLINIC VIOLENCE.**

SURGEON GENERAL NOMINEE HENRY FOSTER IN TROUBLE ALREADY

WRITE SENATORS NANCY KASSENBAUM, D'AMATO, MOYNIHAN AND DOLE ON THE FACT THAT GYNECOLOGISTS DO ABORTIONS AND ABORTION IS LEGAL IN THIS COUNTRY.

FAMILY VALUES, WELFARE REFORM AND RACISM

Julian Bond's election analysis says that "...American discontent with ...(welfare), crime and immigration, ...has a slight, or more pronounced, depending on who you are, racial caste to them." *NYT 11-10-94*

Katha Pollitt (*The Nation* 7-11-94) says welfare reform is a feminist issue and remembers the old button, "Every mother is a working mother." She says that welfare reform is merely a massive social denial that AFDC moms are already working. Motherhood still is not socially valued labor.

She says that teenage girls do not get pregnant through parthenogenesis. She chides child development experts—Belsky, Karen, and Brazelton for "devoting their careers to filling working mothers with guilt for putting their children in daycare." Where are these experts on the "prospect of millions of poor children...warehoused in fulltime daycare that is bound to be vastly inferior to the middle-class arrangements the experts criticize? Have they even spoken out against Charles Murray's mad proposal for the mass orphanaging of "illegitimate" toddlers?" (It's not even original, Newt.)

Is the collapse of traditional family values at the heart of our social decay? Or did social decay bring that collapse? Judith Stacey in *The Nation* (7-25-94) argues that it is "the losses in real earnings and in breadwinner jobs, the persistence of low-wage work for women and the corporate greed that has accompanied global economic restructuring that has wreaked far more havoc on Ozzie and Harriet Land than have the combined effects of feminism, sexual revolution, gay liberation, the counterculture, narcissism and every other value flip of the past half-century."

"Few can enjoy the luxury of a "new Familism" that places children's needs above the demands of a job. Wherever class bias flourishes, race is seldom far behind, Dan Quayle's attack on Murphy Brown was an attempt to play the Willie Horton card in whiteface. Without resorting to overt racism, he conjured up ...hordes of black welfare "queens" rearing infant fodder for sex, drugs and videotaped rebellions, such as had just erupted in L.A."

A NEW GENDER-EQUITY BILL

A Minnesota lawmaker has introduced a proposal requiring that before a man may receive a vasectomy, his wife, parents and in-laws must be informed. It will also be required that the man be told at least 24 hours before the procedure who will perform it, the medical risks involved, and that it is irreversible.

NYT 1/29/95

CLEANING UP THE ACT

"Christian Coalition director Ralph Reed's strategy is to change the sermonizing of the Christian right so that it is no longer a series of attacks on "godless Democrats," "baby-killers," "socialists" and "sodomites"—meaning people who support pro-choice abortion legislation, feminism, gay rights and health care reform. The change would transform the religious right's image into one of marginally mainstream grass roots conservatism."

The Washington Spectator

GRACIOS, THANKS AND MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

- * The Funnies at the pot luck mailing party—they told great jokes!
- * All those who contributed financially, especially our high rollers! Postage increases not quite so ominous now.
- * Ellen, for the new distribution system, stamps and the envelopes.
- * To those who tell us good things about the newsletter. Keep it coming — it feels so good!
- * To our idea contributors and article clippers.
- * OUR WRITERS—WELL DONE! ENJOY YOUR VACATION!
- * To the local doctors who provide abortions.

**CAN'T GO TO BIG RALLY
IN WASHINGTON APRIL 9TH ???**

RENT-A-STUDENT

To go in your place.

Several students have expressed a desire to go but do not have the bus fare (\$50).

NAME _____
Contribution: ___\$50 ___\$25 ___\$10 ___Other

CLINIC VIOLENCE

Cortland Standard headlines in early January warned that poor women would stay away from family planning clinics for fear of violence. The most recent murders of two receptionists at a Planned Parenthood clinic and a Gyn clinic in Brookline, Ma. sent a chill through clinic personnel everywhere. Another headline said that upstate clinics were increasing their security measures.

The vast majority of clinics that provide abortions provide many other services—mostly contraceptive services that prevent the need for abortions. Most of these clinics are not rightly called abortion clinics because that is only a small portion of the services that they provide.

FETAL TISSUE RESEARCH

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) unanimously approved funding for research on the human embryo. Clinton immediately ordered the NIH not to fund studies that would create embryos solely for research. Fertilized eggs prepared for but not used in vitro fertilization treatments will be used.

An ad hoc panel had been charged with defining circumstances of this research. After much agonizing, they concluded that embryos could be created if there was no other way to obtain them and if the research was of outstanding value. This particular provision was overruled by the White House. *JAMA 1-11-95*

CALENDAR

- Apr 7-9, March on Washington to stop violence.
Call 277-3203 to reserve your place.
Send a donation to us and we will
send a student in your place, if you can't go.
- Apr 25, Pot Luck Mailing Party--Do Join Us
- May 1, Next Newsletter

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Long Distance Fund Raising Info Requested _____

Contributions ___\$50 ___\$25 ___\$20 ___\$10 ___Other

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

May 1995
Vol.4, Number 6

VOTE FOR SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES MAY 2

THE MARCH TO PROTEST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Grateful that the weatherman had smiled upon them, hundreds (or tens, depending on who's counting) of thousands of demonstrators rallied in Washington, D.C. on April 9th to protest violence against women. Organized by NOW it was endorsed by more than 700 groups including abortion-rights supporters, labor unions, civil rights groups, gay groups, environmentalists, victim's rights advocates and welfare recipients.

The most powerful display viewed by protesters was the Clothesline Project, consisting of hundreds of T-shirts, each one commemorating a female victim of violence. On Sunday a new T-shirt was added to the Clothesline when Denise Brown hung it there to honor the memory of her sister, Nicole Brown Simpson.

Judy Woodruff of CNN interviewed a number of demonstrators, including politicians; TV, movie, and rock stars; and figures familiar to the public because of their association with the struggle for women's rights.

Sharon Gless and Tyne Daly of "Cagney and Lacey" fame told Woodruff that the rally "was important in order to show support for all the women who've been battered." They noted that the Simpson trial has made "more and more people aware of the violence occurring against women." These TV stars asserted, too, that women like themselves are less valued than men by TV's decision makers. Although their show's ratings were equal to or better than those of "The Rockford Files," "Cagney and Lacey" was relegated to a "dark hole" spot on Tuesdays, and they were given less money.

Woodruff also spoke to David Gunn Jr., son of the murdered abortion doctor, who thought that the rally was "one of the main ways to show government the strength of feeling in this country supporting women's rights."

One speaker, June Barrett who was wounded and whose husband was murdered along with Dr. Britton in Pensacola, urged demonstrators "to keep up the good fight." she ended by shouting "We won't go back!!!"

Representative Charles Schumer of New York observed in his interview that "the anti-abortionists can't win in Congress, they can't win in the legislatures, so they are taking matters into their own hands in violence against clinics."

Equating what they called "political violence" with physical attacks, speakers feared that "Congress would curtail abortion rights, cut spending on welfare programs for women and children, dismantle affirmative action programs for women and minorities, and cut financing to prevent domestic violence and aid its victims." Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority, told the crowd that "Be it personal terror or political terror, it has just one purpose—control." She asserted, to thunderous applause, that "We are the majority. Our rights will only be taken away if we allow the terrorists to reign."

(portions quoted from The New York Times 4-10-95)

GINGRICH VEERS AWAY FROM THE RIGHT

In a stance which puts him at odds with the Republican conservatives, Speaker Newt Gingrich in an interview with "Face the Nation," said that he supported the availability of federally financed abortions for poor women who are victims of rape or incest. He also said that he was opposed to organized school prayer. He asserted that his "personal view is that this is a country which is pro-choice but anti-abortion . . . there are remarkably few Americans who favor abortion as a contraception or who think of abortion as a trivial matter. And so I think we can have a pretty large area of civil discussion without it breaking down into automatic hostility." About school prayer, he said: "I am opposed to any organized school prayer. I am opposed to the teacher having a prayer. I am opposed to an official prayer." But he says his party will plan legislation that would "create a legal framework that allows us to recognize that this is a profoundly religious country, but there is no state church."

The New York Times 4-10-95

"RELIGIOUS RIGHT GAINS VOICE IN ALBANY"

This is the headline of the 4/10/95 Cortland Standard. Readers of the CCFC newsletter knew of Pataki's alliance with the Rev. Duane Motley and the NYers for Constitutional Freedoms before he was elected governor. As a senator, Pataki's had been awarded the organization's "family values" award. Oh, that was before he became "pro-choice."

DR. GUNN LAWSUIT

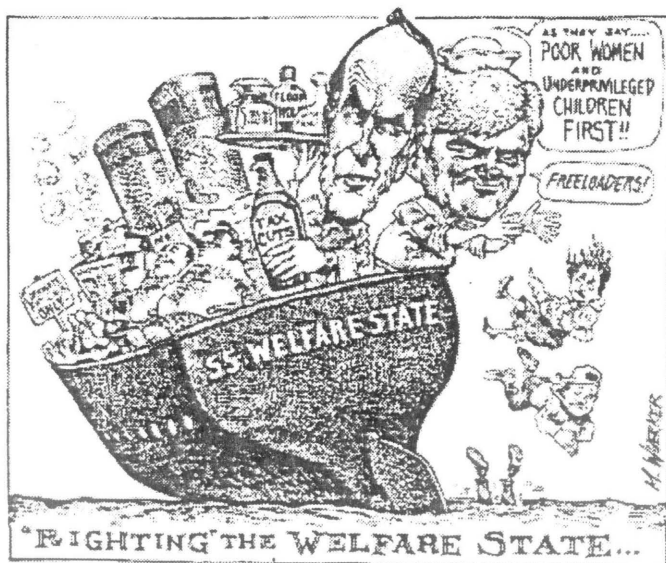
An unusual suit brought by Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center names John Burt, a Pensacola anti-abortion leader and 3 anti-abortion groups as conspirators with Michael Griffen in the murder of Dr. David Gunn. Burt claims no knowledge of Griffen's plans to kill Gunn.

Dees brought a successful \$7 million case against the United Klan of America in 1987 for the lynching of a teenager. The Klan had to turn over its national headquarters to the mother of the teen. In another Dees case, the White Aryan Resistance paid \$12 million to a family for the bludgeoned death of their son by 3 skinheads who were followers of the group.

As a matter of law, it is not necessary to prove specific knowledge of murder plans. Instead, those seeking damages must prove only that violence was explicitly contemplated as part of a campaign to stop abortions and that the shooting was a foreseeable result of the scheme.

Burt is charged with providing substantial, unlawful and concerted obstruction to the performing of legal abortions. He has had numerous convictions for criminal trespass; he distributed "wanted" posters featuring Dr. Gunn; and his organization organized the demonstration where Dr. Gunn was killed.

NYT 3/10/95



MATTERS OF OUR LIVES

by Dave Lehman

First Unitarian Church of Ithaca February 19, 1995

I want to sound a call to arms! not a call to "weapons" but to "arms" with sleeves rolled up, linked arm in arm, to meet the challenge of the Christian Right, the Radical Right.

I ask you to join me in:

- *Refusing to give the abortion clinics, Planned Parenthood, nurses and doctors to the Christian Right, the Radical Right;

- *Refusing to give control of the media, public television and radio, the arts and the National Endowment for Arts to the Christian Right, the Radical Right;

- *Refusing to give our welfare system, and our children of poverty to the Christian Right, the Radical Right;

- *Refusing to give affirmative action and civil rights to the Christian Right, the Radical Right;

- *Refusing to give our nation's political, foreign policy, and economic decisions to the Christian Right, the Radical Right; and

- *Refusing to give our schools public education with school prayer, creationism, monoculturalism rather than multiculturalism, and college student aid programs for low income and minority students to the Christian Right, the Radical Right!

SOME BASICS ON CHOICE

1. RELIGIOUS POSITIONS

There are 37 national mainline religious institutions that make up the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. Here is a partial list:

American Friends (Quakers); Church of Christ, Scientist; Conservative Judaism; Episcopal Church; Islam; Presbyterian Church; Reform Judaism; Unitarian Universalist Association; United Church of Christ; United Methodist; Zen Buddhism; American Baptist Churches (adopted a neutral position)

Source: Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights

2. U. S. OPINION

The majority of people in this country support choice

3. ABORTION SAFETY

Studies do not validate the existence of post abortion trauma syndrome. The extensive research by Dr. Nada Stotland, a University of Chicago psychiatrist could not find a single methodologically sound study that supports the claim. Some women suffer temporary feelings of stress, guilt and sadness and those diminish over time. The bulk of the research contradicts the existence of the syndrome. *Relief was the most commonly felt emotion* in an 18 months follow up study with 360 women. They also showed significant improvement in their personal relationships and other psychiatric indicators.

In a 207 women study, 94% stayed the same or improved their mental health after an abortion.

A large British study showed that diagnosed psychiatric illnesses and hospitalizations were considerably lower after

abortion compared to childbirth. It said that psychosis after child birth was 1.7\1000 births and after abortion it was 0.3\1000 abortions.

Abortion is now one of the safest and most common surgical procedures performed in the US.

Chicago Tribune as reported in the Herald American 10\25\92

4. WHO HAS ABORTIONS?

Young, single, white women have most of the abortions.

5. HOW MANY WOMEN HAVE HAD ABORTIONS?

The number of abortion done in the US in 1973 (1st year of Roe) was 800,000. It has been estimated that legal abortion replaced illegal abortion. Throughout the 1980s, 1.5 million abortions were performed each year. Three of every 10 pregnancies are aborted. 27\1000 women (15-44 years old) obtain abortions every year. 21%-33% of all American women have had an abortion.

CDC Statistics

6. LEGAL STATUS

Abortion is still constitutionally guaranteed but access is becoming extremely limited, cumbersome and dangerous.

CLINICAL TRIALS ON ABORTION PILL

Although 250,000 women in 20 countries have used this pill, mifepristone, since 1982, it has only been in the last several months and at selected test sites that the pill is available in this country. "And for the first wave of American women to use the abortion pill, all but a few said that they would choose the pill again, if necessary."

NYT 1\30\95

NPR's NINA TOTTENBURG ON CLINIC VIOLENCE (3\3\95 MORNING EDITION)

- * 5 MURDERS/9 MAIMED IN 2 YEARS
 - * 400 DEATH THREATS IN 1994 ALONE
 - * 8% fewer MDs doing abortions in '94 compared to '93.
- In the past 12 years these cases have been reported:
- * 37 BOMBINGS IN 33 STATES
 - * 123 CASES OF ARSON
 - * 1500 CASES OF ASSAULT, STALKING, SABOTAGE AND BURGLARY
- Dollar value of this violence:
\$13,000,000.

Does violence work? Maybe. MDs are refusing to do abortions, fewer medical schools are offering training in abortion (93% in 1975 to 12% now), abortion clinics are closing (more than 500 US hospitals and clinics have stopped performing abortions since the early 1980s according to the Washington Post 1\22\95) and fewer abortions are performed (1992 rate was the lowest in 16 years).

In 1969 the Supreme Court handed down the Brandenburg vs Ohio case that allowed the Klan, in the name of free speech to burn a cross, brandish guns and denounce Blacks and Jews and call for "revengeance." Advocating violence or an illegal act cannot be prosecuted unless it incites "imminent lawless action," according to the

Court. Tottenburg asks what of Martin Luther King Jr. or Malcolm X or Mark Anthony in Julius Caesar? Both liberal Lawrence Tribe and Conservative Judge Bork agree that the Court was not clear in Brandenburg and it must make the distinction between advocating peaceful protest and advocating murder.

The Army of God manual, dug up from the backyard of Michelle Shannon (she wounded an MD who provided abortions) advocated blowing off the hands or thumbs of MDs, and gave instructions on making bombs and putting chemicals in the vent systems of clinics. Tribe would say that the philosophical message of the manual would be protected but perhaps the instructions would not be considered free speech.

Tottenburg says that this recent terrorism makes us revisit the 1992 Supreme Court decision that allowed Pennsylvania's 24 hour waiting period to stand because it did not pose undue hardship. When clinics have become armed camps, the more times one has to visit a clinic the more burden one bears.

ABORTION MD BUILDS PROTECTIVE FORTRESS

Dr Damon Stutes, one of Nevada's few MDs to provide abortions spent \$1 million to provide a safe space to practice. Surrounded by an iron fence, the building has surveillance cameras, motion detectors, bullet proof windows and infra-red scanners. The doctor wears a bullet proof vest and packs a pistol.

Patients are no longer stressed by screaming mobs. Stutes says that he's no hero: he's just doing what he's got to do.

Cort. St. 3\20\95

ANOTHER MD SPEAKS OUT

Dr. Elizabeth Karlin says that women have abortions for only one reason—they do not have the resources to be a good mother.

NYT Magazine March 95

MIFEPRISTONE—THE AMERICAN ABORTION PILL

The French pharmaceutical company, Roussel Uclaf, which developed RU 486 has assigned its US patent rights without remuneration to The Population Council. It will therefore not be called RU 486 but rather by its scientific name, Mifepristone. Approval by FDA, the approval of a manufacture, and clinical trials must be completed before the drug will be available according to the Women's Trust Fund of the Feminist Majority Foundation.

NYS MEDICAID ABORTIONS

Pataki's state budget called for money to pay for abortions for poor women on Medicaid. "Almost one-third of the more than 150,000 abortions performed in NY are paid for by Medicaid at the cost of about \$26 million."

Cort. Standard 3\3\95

SHIFT AND SHAFT

These appear to be the policies of the new Congress. Shift money and regulatory responsibility to the states with probable local tax burden increases and Shaft poor women and children by eliminating important programs in order to pay for continued corporate welfare, capital gains tax exclusions and tax decreases for the rich. ED

"WE WILL NOT BE NEWT-ERED"

"Republicans don't need abortions; they eat their young." These were but two of the signs at the Washington Rally against Violence on April 9. Your Coalition sponsored four of Cortland's ten people who attended. Several daughters of the old line activists attended and expressed pride at being THE NEXT GENERATION.

"RUSH LIMBAUGH IS PUBLIC BROADCASTING"

A BILL H.R. 208—To repeal the statutory authority for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting....REPEAL Part IV of the Communications Act of 1934 relating to assistance for public telecommunications facilities, telecommunications demonstrations, and the CPB, is repealed.

Wash Post of 2/17/95 quotes Newt Gingrich in a speech to the RAMS, a group of current and former Republican Hill staffers: "I don't understand why they call it public broadcasting. As far as I am concerned, there's nothing public about it; it's an elitist enterprise. Rush Limbaugh is public broadcasting."

WORKING MOMS

The Contract With American and Gingrich's Personal Responsibility Act stirs up the images of pregnant teens, crack mothers and welfare queens. Come on women, get out there and work!

But Marcia Clark is a "bad mom" because she chose a career, excelled at it and her ambition cost her sympathy and possibly the custody of her children. Barely noted is Johnnie

CALENDAR

- May 2, School Board Elections
- July 1, Newsletter
- Sept 1, Newsletter

GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCI BEAU COUP TO:

- * The Funnies at the pot luck mailing party.
- * All those who contributed financially.
- * The Special people who were "Rent A Student" contributors.
You enabled four low income women/students to go to Washington on April 9.
- * Ellen, for more work on the new distribution system. We'll get it soon.
- * To our student intern, Jennifer.
- * OUR WRITERS—WELL DONE!
- * The local physicians who provide abortions.

Cochran's upcoming palimony suit. And what of the children of any of the others involved in the trial?

Holly Sammons, Onon. Women's Political Caucus April 95

POPE DECLARES ABORTION ALWAYS IMMORAL

Pope John Paul II, in a new encyclical clarified the Church's position on the death penalty—it is justified in very rare instances. He also delivered the Church's most forceful condemnation of abortion, euthanasia and experimentation on human embryos. These are always wrong.

The Vatican's ban on birth control was restated because the "'contraceptive mentality' could lead to the temptation for abortion."

The Pope said that no reason "however serious and tragic," justifies abortion—including the woman's desire to protect certain important values such as her own health.... Direct abortion, abortion willed as an end or as a means, always constitutes a grave moral disorder...." punished with automatic excommunication.

Cortland Standard 4/95



Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Long Distance Fund Raising Info Requested _____

Contributions ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$10 ☐ Other _____

"office use: cb _____ cp _____ tx _____"

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045
JULY 1995
Vol.4, Number 7

People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by the majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote.

Walter H. Judd

CONNECTIONS

"The murderous wave of antiabortion violence that swept the nation last year did not come out of the blue. It's been building steadily since the early 1980s, when the antiabortion movement began spawning groups of individuals who resorted to increasingly confrontational and violent acts. Clinics were blockaded and trashed; there were letter bombs, invasions, butyric acid attacks, arson, and bombings. Providers and their families were routinely harassed, stalked, and threatened. The road to terrorism began with rhetoric that proclaimed "abortion is murder," then moved to "abortionists are murderers." From there it was but a short leap to the call from extremist groups to "murder abortionists." It is a call that, starting in March 1993, "pro-life" terrorists have acted upon five times by killing doctors David Gunn and John Britton, escort James Barrett, and clinic workers Shannon Lowney and Leanne Nichols.

"For far too long, the acts of terrorism have been routinely described by police and press as "isolated incidents." (Oklahoma City was an isolated incident also, but consider the immediate investigations into paramilitary movements that ensued.) Whenever pro-choice activists have challenged that notion, suggesting that the violence may be part of an orchestrated plan, they have been met with skepticism. But for several years activists and a handful of reporters have been carefully linking incidents of clinical violence. Until recently, attempts to convince the US Dept of Justice have been unsuccessful, though President Clinton has characterized the violence as "domestic terrorism." in March the conspiracy theory gained new currency when the children of Dr. Gunn brought a wrongful death suit against antiabortion leader John Burt and three antiabortion groups—Our Father's home, Rescue America and Shadowland."

MS, Vol. 5 # 6

FACTS

By the year 2000, up to 125,000 US children may be orphaned by AIDS, says the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

THE INSTRUCTIONS AND INSPIRATION

From The Army of God's manual found buried in the backyard of Shelley Shannon after she shot OB/GYN Dr. Tiller.

"We, the remnant of God-fearing men and women of the United States of Amerika, do officially declare war on the entire child killing industry. After praying, fasting, and making continual supplication to God for your pagan, heathen, infidel souls—we then peacefully, passively presented our bodies in front of your death camps, begging you to stop the mass murdering of infants. Yet you hardened your already blackened, jaded hearts. We quietly accepted the resulting imprisonment and suffering of our passive resistance. Yet you mocked God and continued the Holocaust.

No longer! All the options have expired, Our Most Dread Sovereign Lord God requires that whosoever sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed. Not out of hatred of you, but out of love for the persons you exterminate, we are forced to take arms against you. Our life for yours—a simple equation. Dreadful. Sad. Reality, none the less. You shall not be tortured at our hands. Vengeance belongs to God only. However, execution is rarely gentle."

Ib. id. p.47

WELFARE QUIZ

Q. Which costs the country more—people welfare or corporate welfare?

A. AFDC makes up 1% of the federal budget. The conservative Cato Institute and the liberal Progressive Policy Institute both took a hard look at corporate welfare and agreed that corporate pork was pervasive. PPI contends that corporate tax breaks are just as large as the pork. Cut the latter they propose and \$265 billion is saved over 5 years. Examples of this pork are govt built roads for private loggers, \$500,000 to Campbells to advertise V-8 in Argentina, and \$3M for Rice Federation to Promote Uncle Bens in Turkey, etc.

Q. What percent of Medicaid goes to the 16 million children and 7 million low income adults who make up 73% of those on Medicaid?

A. 33% with the average cost per child at \$1,360.

Q. What is the average expenditure for 5 million disabled and 3.7 million elderly per year?

A. \$9,226. and \$9,862 resp.

Q. What's the average time on welfare?

A. Nearly 3 of 4 women go off AFDC within 2 years.

Q. Is a minimum wage earner with 2 kids above the poverty line?

A. Yes in 1970s. No in the 1990s.

Q. What's the average yearly welfare payment (food stamps and AFDC) to most families?

A. \$7,740.

Sources: Council of Presidents of Women's Rights Organizations & NYT 3/7/95

WHO IS THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT AND IS THAT A PROPER NAME?

The Clergy Advisory Board of the Planned Parenthood Federation suggest the use of the term the "RIGHTEOUS RIGHT" instead. (Ed. note: we like "self righteous right") American Christians are too long silent when the extreme right declares for them what they believe.

The editor of PP's Clergy Voices, Tom Davis says that the RR claim that they stand for family values and the poor, but there deepest values are economic conservatism and patriarchy.

This is made manifest by the Christian Coalition's strong opposition to Clinton's Deficit Reduction Bill of '93 (increases taxes on the rich) and lack of support for the family leave act (to care for babies or other dependents).

Where are the love and justice values among the welfare reform proposals?

CHRISTIAN COALITION TESTS GOP

Feeling forgotten in the GOP budget and economic obsessions, Pat Robertson forged his own contract—one with the American family, one that will emphasize the GOPs forgotten social issues. It calls for cutting funds to groups that provide abortions or ab counseling; no NEA endowments; no Ed Dept, yes to school prayer and no late term abortions. Also it calls for a ban of gays in the military.

Focus on the Family leader, James Dobson reminds the Republican National Comm that 43% of the voters are evangelical Christians. *Cortland Standard.* 5/25/95

LL BEAN

This company is very involved with antichoice activities. Linda Loraine Bean, heir to and granddaughter of founder, uses her business name, facilities and money to attack women's and gay rights according to the purple Panthers of Philadelphia. Her \$ and efforts defeated Maine's ERA. Her own run for Congress was directed by the Maine Chair of the Christian Coalition. She contributes to the CC, Helms and Schafly. Here is the # to complain to: 1-800-341-4341. *PP of Syracuse.* Spring 95

FAMILY PLANNING FUNDS OK IN NEW STATE BUDGET

Our governor put the same money in the budget for the state Bureau of Reproductive Health as did Cuomo last year. The legislature placed another \$1.5 M in it last year and this year we had restored \$1.2 M of that. There is another \$1M to be used for teen pregnancy prevention and breast cancer screening as well. The Pataki pre-abortion counseling language required of family planning clinics was removed.

THE SUE ABORTION DOCTORS STRATEGY

Check out Time Magazine 3/13/95 "Onward Christian Lawyers" re the strategy of malpractice cases against physicians. Our Coalition had their "How to Sue Kit" complete with a slick video.

MED SCHOOLS MUST PROVIDE AB TRAINING

Abortion training will be an obligatory part of the curriculum for residents in Ob/Gyn as of 1/1/96 according to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. There is an escape clause for moral or religious objections.

CORTLAND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION — WE LOSE FRIEND

Dan Jampole will be missed. He lost by narrow margin to long time Cortland residents, Charles Menapace and Tony Papalia. Both of these new men are thoughtful and considerate of sexuality education issues. Thanks, Dan.

ZEALOTS CALL IT "JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE"

Immediately after the Brookline Clinic murders, the Feminist Majority Foundation demanded that the U.S. Department of Justice rigorously enforce the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE). Eleanor Smeal, president, asserted that "To date there have been no arrests under the FACE law for death threats. . . Almost 25% of the clinics are experiencing death threats." Anti-abortion zealots continue to terrorize doctors in their homes, including twelve targeted as "The Deadly Dozen."

Feminist Majority Report. Spring 1995

THE TWO FACES OF THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT.

RALPH REED

PAT ROBERTSON

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

"We reaffirm our belief in the notion that church and state should be separate institutions."

to *The New York Times*

"The Constitution of the United States says nothing about the separation of church and state. That phrase does appear, however, in the Soviet Constitution, which says the state shall be separate from the church and the church from the school. People in the educational establishment, and in our judicial establishment, have attempted to impose Soviet strictures on the United States."

to *Conservative Digest*

RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

"There are two things that have made America great. One is her essential moral goodness... but you also have to acknowledge diversity and pluralism."

on *Meet the Press*

"The Constitution of the United States, for instance, is a marvelous document for self-government by Christian people. But the minute you turn the document into the hands of non-Christians and atheistic people they can use it to destroy the very foundation of our society."

on *The 700 Club*

MONOPOLIZING FAITH

"We shouldn't be denigrating other people's faith. We shouldn't have our public discourse polluted by casting aspersions on other people's religious beliefs."

on *Good Morning America*

"[I]t is painfully obvious that you are a deeply troubled individual who has somewhere along the way lost your Judaic roots only to seek in radical secularism what only God can give you."

to ADL President Abe Foxman

EDUCATION

"I think our motivation is primarily a parents-rights agenda. We're not interested in creationism or prayer in school."

to the *Boston Phoenix*

"[T]he public education movement has also been an anti-Christian movement....We can change education in America if you put Christian principles in and Christian pedagogy in. In three years, you would totally revolutionize education in America."

on *The 700 Club*

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

"What we believe as an organization is that abortion should not be used as a form of birth control."

on *Meet the Press*

"What Planned Parenthood is doing is absolutely contrary to everything Christian. It is teaching kids to fornicate, teaching people to have adultery, teaching people to get involved in every kind of bestiality, homosexuality, lesbianism — everything that the Bible condemns. And teaching to be without absolutely any moral constraint."

on *The 700 Club*

WOMEN

"I think Pat Robertson is very pro-woman."

on *Meet the Press*

"The feminist agenda is not about equal rights for women. It is about a socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians."

in fundraising letter

HOMOSEXUALITY

"We don't oppose homosexuals having jobs, running for office, being involved in the civic process, owning and renting property....It's not a matter of being against or hating homosexuals."

on *Meet the Press*

"When lawlessness is abroad in the land, the same thing will happen here that happened in Nazi Germany. Many of those people involved in Adolph Hitler were Satanists, many were homosexuals — the two things seem to go together."

on *The 700 Club*

THE FUSE TO OKLAHOMA CITY

Describing a videotape of a far right Taxpayers Party meeting, New York Times columnist Frank Rich points to the connection between violence against abortion clinics and the Oklahoma City tragedy. The videotape had been shown last August in New York City at a press conference called by Planned Parenthood, and little attention was paid to it. Rich noted that two of the videotaped speakers were Randall Terry of Operation Rescue and Matthew Trehwella of Missionaries to the Preborn. The attendees were "given a manual titled 'Principles Justifying the Arming and Organizing of a Militia' in which the Bible was invoked to justify the formation of 'assault teams' to protect the unborn." Mr. Trehwella "spoke of training his young child to use guns."

In the stepped-up investigation that followed, Planned Parenthood began to uncover a common link of anti-abortion extremists, new-world-order paranoids, Waco wackos, Reconstructionist Christians, white supremacists and assault-weapon fanatics in a national paramilitary subculture. Abortion turned out to be merely the come-on issue, designed to attract followers to a rabid anti-government crusade.

Since Oklahoma bombing, Federal law enforcement officials have been in constant touch with Planned Parenthood. By now they've no doubt seen an anti-abortion terrorism manual from the mid 1980's with an elaborate illustrated plan for building a fertilizer bomb.

It's not yet known whether this evidence will connect a specific militia or far-right group to the Oklahoma tragedy. What is clear is how extensively the nation's far-right factions are interconnected, forming a political network that often publicly espouses the same ideology as the terrorists in our midst. . .

For one example of the far right's cohesiveness, consider Lawrence Pratt, head of the rabid Gun Owners of America. Wearing another hat, Mr. Pratt also runs the Committee to Protect the Family Foundation, a fund raiser for Operation Rescue. As a public speaker, Mr. Pratt tours

CALENDAR

- Aug 23, Mailing party. Details? Write Box #385
- Aug 26, Women Equity Day -- Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote
- Sept 1, Next Newsletter
- Sept Survey Candidates by Cortland Women's Coalition
- Nov 1, Election Newsletter and Voter's Guide
- Nov 7 Election Day

GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

* The Mailers and Funners.

* The Editors.

* The Contributors--we received more this year than ever before but that doesn't let you off the hook.

with "Preparedness Expo '95," where he shares top billing with Mark ("from Michigan") Koernke, the shortwave radio voice of the militia movement, and Bo Gritz, the Idaho militia guru and Christian Covenant leader who last week described the Oklahoma bombing as 'a Rembrandt--a masterpiece of science and art put together.'

At last, though at a high price, the country and Justice Department are starting to catch up to Planned Parenthood.

The New York Times, 5/14/95

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND THE REPUBLICAN HOUSE

In an attempt to include a permanent "Hyde Amendment" in a budget rescission package, House Republicans hoped to deny states Medicaid funds for abortions in cases of rape and incest. Pro-choice Republicans, however, declared they would withhold support for the entire rescission package if the amendment were included. Although the amendment was deleted, outraged antis in the House promised to bring it up again. Antis also targeted welfare reform as a way to limit abortion. Although the "gag rule" provision was dropped because of strong opposition, the "Contract's" legislation would encourage states to enact restrictive abortion policies, and discourage states from protecting access to clinics. While leaders pushed "personal responsibility" for low-income families, Majority Whip Tom Daly (R-Tx) announced that he may seek to cut existing funding from the Title X family planning program.

People for the American Way News, Spring 1995

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions __\$50 __\$25 __\$20 __\$10 __Other

"office use: cb _____ cp _____ tx _____"

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

M

~~Cortland Standard~~
Cortland, NY

Cortland, NY 13045

Sept '95

Vol. 4, Number 8

TITLE X RETAINED BUT STATE SENATE PASSES PARENTAL NOTIFICATION BILL

CONGRESS MERCIFULLY RETAINS TITLE X

In a narrow vote of 221 to 207 the federal program that funds family planning services for poor women was upheld at 10:30 PM on Aug 2. In that HHS House appropriation bill, States were permitted to deny Medicaid abortions for victims of rape and incest.

NPR Morning Ed. 8/3/95

STATE SENATE ADOPTS PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

...according to the 6/30/95 Cortland Standard headline. This is the first time in 20 years that such a bill made it through and the vote was significant (32-20). The opposition sees this as a major victory and will bring it back again. Hugh Carey vetoed such a bill in 1977. It is highly unlikely that the Assembly would ever pass such a bill given its present makeup. The bill would have required a teen less than 16 (a concession from age 18) to notify both parents 48 hours before she had an abortion. This all seems reasonable if one could legislate family communications and eliminate violence and incest.

TEEN ABORTIONS IN CORTLAND DOWN DRAMATICALLY

Nationwide approximately 50% of all teen pregnancies end in abortion. This is a sad indicator of the level of unplanned pregnancy among those who can least support or rear a child. Actually the level of unplanned pregnancy among all women is about 51%—with teens it's 80-85%.

The numbers of abortions for Cortland teens has been diminishing over the past several years. In very generalized terms, those bound for college or in college choose abortion and those from lower income backgrounds oppose abortion for themselves and choose to carry and keep their pregnancy.

Nationwide the number of abortions continues to decline to 1.5M in 1992, the lowest number since 1979. Thus, 27.5 % of all pregnancies ended in abortion in 1992 compared to 30% in 1979-1986. The reasons for the decline according to the Guttmacher Institute are changed attitude toward single parenting and toward abortion, wider use of

contraceptives, and more limited access to abortion. Abortion services have become "more fraught with hassles and harassment." The number of providers have dropped significantly and 84% of US counties have no providers.

TEEN ABORTIONS DOWN IN CORTLAND

YEAR	#	RATE	UPSTATE RATE
86	80	29.2	33.6
87	70	27.1	34.3
88	68	27.5	34.7
89	68	26.1	40.1
90	59	23.4	35.0
91	50	20.0	30.0
92	43	17.5	28.7
93	37	NA	NA

This decrease hopefully is due to primary prevention efforts such as abstinence and the use of birth control among 15-19 yr. olds rather than fear and misinformed consent about abortion. Abortion availability decreased in 1989 when Medicaid patients could no longer obtain procedures locally.

PAGLIA CONDEMNS PRO-CHOICE TACTICS

"The American Feminist," (Summer, 1995) a pro life publication reviews Vamps and Tramps by Camille Paglia. They note with interest that Paglia thinks that "pro-choice" is a cowardly term; she is pro-abortion. Paglia, they say chides the feminists for their refusal to acknowledge the violence inherent in the termination of life. She asks, how can feminists oppose capital punishment of serial rapists but support abortion?

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS FACE

One piece of good news: a recent decision of the Supreme Court holds that FACE, the law protecting Freedom of Access to Abortion Clinics without verbal and physical harassment (the righteous right call it free speech) is constitutional.

NARAL/NY NEW BUYER'S GUIDE

Who supports Operation Rescue? Who supports Choice? Want to make your spending reflect your politics? Here's a partial list from the guide available for \$6.50 from: NARAL/NY Foundation, 462 Broadway, Suite 540, NY, NY 10013.

PRO CHOICE	ANTI CHOICE	MIXED
Esprit de Corp	Coors Brewing	(Gives to both)
Gap Foundation	Domino's Pizza	Anheuser-Busch
General Mills		AT&T
Levi Strauss		PepsiCo
		Texaco

Ashland Oil, Coors and Texaco fund the Free Congress Foundation. Paul Weyrich is the founder and is considered the father of the New Right. Amway, Coors, Ford, General Motors, GE, Exxon, Mobil, Philip Morris, Proctor and Gamble, Readers Digest, UPS, Texaco and RJ Reynolds support the Heritage Foundation, one of the largest conservative think tanks. It was founded by Joseph Coors.

PS. The Onondaga Women's Political Caucus says that Pizza Hut has Rush Limbaugh now promoting their stuffed pizza. How appropriate!

Their # is 1-800-948-8488.

"WE HAVE ENOUGH VOTES TO RUN THIS COUNTRY....AND WHEN THE PEOPLE SAY, 'WE'VE HAD ENOUGH,' WE'RE GOING TO TAKE OVER!

The Rev Pat Robertson

WELFARE AND PREVENTION

NYS spends nearly \$2 B. annually on public assistance for families started by teenagers but only \$.02 on every public assistance dollar for prevention of teen pregnancies.

RESTRICTIVE ABORTION LAWS IN PENNSYLVANIA CAUSE DECREASE THERE

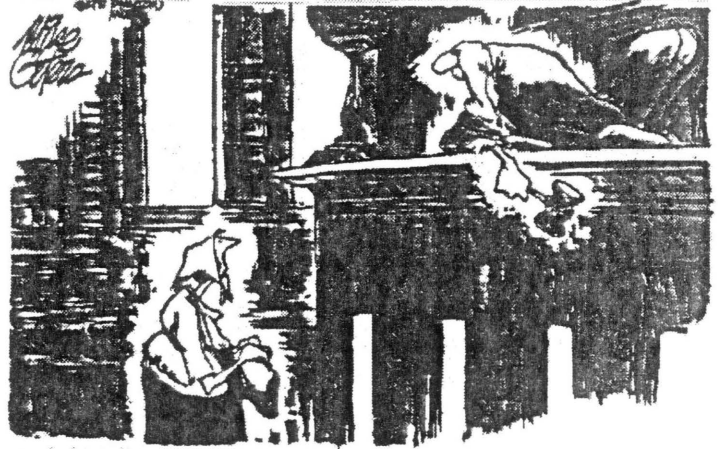
Abortion providers in NY and NJ say that their Pennsylvania patients have increased. Binghamton abortion provider reports 9-10 % increase in PA. patients since 1993 when restrictions were put in place. The number of abortions in Pa. is down 13%. *NPR AM edition 8/4/95*

NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE AND NOW JOIN FORCES

An odd arm's length alliance has developed between pro and anti choice groups. ACLU and NOW join the Catholic Conference and Feminists for Life in opposing welfare reform that limits benefits to newborns. Pro-lifers worry that this will increase abortions. In NJ where there is a 'family cap' the Medicaid abortion rate has increased 3.6% since 1993. *Nation 2/27/95*

NEW TEEN PREGNANCY STUDIES REVEAL RAPE AND INCEST

Welfare reform that throws a teen mom off the rolls is not the solution to teen pregnancy given new data. 40-70% of the fathers in teen pregnancies are not teenagers. One study shows the average age difference is 5 years. A 15 year old girl and a 20 year old man is statutory rape. Another study shows that 60% of teen moms were sexually abused, usually by a family member at an average age of 11.5 yrs.



YOU'VE BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF BEING POOR, FEMALE AND RAPED, AND WE SENTENCE YOU TO NINE MONTHS HARD LABOR...

DEBUONO FAVORS CONDOMS IN SCHOOLS

The 4/21/95 CORTLAND STANDARD headline that the Pataki administration's Health Commissioner favors school condom distribution is slightly misleading. She says that the state should not mandate or prohibit their distribution but rather leave it to the school district.

CONGRESSIONAL OUTRAGES OF THE YEAR

- THE CONTRACT
- A TAX CUT FOR THE RICH
- SCHOOL LUNCH CUT BACK FOR THE POOR
- RESTRICTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS 7/11/95
- BAN ON ABORTIONS AT OVERSEAS MILITARY FACILITIES 5/24
- ALLOWING STATES TO DENY MEDICAID ABORTIONS FOR RAPE AND INCEST 8/3
- REDUCTION OF \$1 B OF UTILITY SUBSIDIES FOR THE POOR 8/3
- DEFUNDING OF SURGEON GENERALS OFFICE 8/3
- EPA THREATENED AND MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL DEREGULATION THREATENED

HOSPITAL MERGES WITH CATHOLIC HOSPITAL AND DROPS FAMILY PLANNING

St Mary's and Leonard Hospital in Troy, NY merged in January and improperly stopped providing family planning services or referrals from their primary care clinics. Petitioners argue that the Public Health Council that approved the merger failed to consider the interests of low income,

rural women, and young women who rely on Leonard for family planning services. The new Catholic hospital was given permission to avoid laws and regs. that require hospital out patient clinics to provide or give direct referrals for family planning.

The Center for Repro Law and Policy Media Advisory 5/17/95

REPUBLICAN BIG TENT VS. RELIGIOUS RIGHT

The RR may have grown disillusioned with the party and are threatening to back a 3rd party candidate according to The Christian Century 4/12/95. "There are signs that the party is becoming inhospitable to our values," says Gary Bauer, head of the Family Research Council. "We won't be satisfied with a few bones" he says referring to the perceived sell out during the Bush election. "We will not be the black sheep of the Republican coalition....The party is making a major miscalculation if they think that they can win without us in 1996."

RANDY TERRY'S CHURCH AND PASTOR LOSE TAX EXEMPT STATUS

For a political ad ("Bill Clinton openly promotes rebellion against God's Laws") in USA Today, the Wash. Post and others, the IRS determined this to be a violation of the church's tax exempt status.

the Body Politic May 95

WORLD POPULATION

In 1971, fewer than 10% of all couples in less developed countries used a method of birth control. By 1991, in just 20 years, that number jumped to 50%. This has corresponded with dramatic declines in the average number of births per woman.

The mission of the Pathfinder International organization, since 1957, has been to promote access to voluntary use of family planning internationally. It reports that less than one half of 1% of the US Federal Budget is allocated for all humanitarian development assistance. Many Americans believe that 15-20% of the budget is spent on foreign assistance. But all US programs—including emergency humanitarian relief, agricultural development, and population assistance—come to about only 1% of the budget—and half of that goes to Egypt and Israel as outlined in the Camp David Accords according to the Pathfinder.

The concern remains for those 100 million women in developing countries that do not live near big cities and do not have access to family planning.

SUPREME COURT TO RIGHT

This is the first time a subsidy to a private religious activity was upheld. In a case at the Univ of Virginia, the court held that the university wrongly refused to provide money from a student activities fund to a student run Evangelical Christian magazine. Also the Court held that private citizens can erect religious displays on public property when it is used for a forum for other private expression.

The Court's recent rulings on "affirmative action, school desegregation and redistricting will make it almost impossible in many cases to design and implement effective remedies to the problems of racial discrimination and segregation," according to Elliot Minchberg of People for the American Way.

Cort Stand. 7/3/95

CONGRESS

Gingrich and company will soon be leading the effort to repeal FACE—the sole federal law protecting the lives of doctors, workers and clients at women's centers. Also on their agenda is to cut:

- *funds for international family planning,
- *funds for national family planning—Title X,
- *abortion coverage for federal employees, and
- *abortion coverage for women in the military and in prison

Also the "human life" constitutional amendment is back. Can we hold the line on our rights? Those elected in 1994 have a huge political debt to pay to the right-wing, mostly male, electorate that brought them to power.

Post script: Title X was saved by the narrowest of votes but military abortions were eliminated by the House.

FOSTER NOMINATION DEAD ON ARRIVAL

Senator Dole changed his mind and allowed the nomination onto the floor of the Senate. Clinton worked diligently to gather the votes necessary to beat a Phil Gramm filibuster.

But we lost a good man. Dr. Foster is a physician with a long and distinguished career in public health, especially in reducing teen pregnancy. Now the House is trying to eliminate the office itself.

US TRAILS MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN MATERNAL HEALTH

The 7/26/95 NYT reports that the US ranks 18th of 118 countries surveyed in the following areas: number women who die in childbirth, teen pregnancy, contraceptive use, prenatal care and the availability of abortion. If you live in Italy, your chance of dying in childbirth is 1 in 17000: in the US it's 1 in 5669.

Despite the "best health care system in the world" the US ranking is low for 2 reasons: teen-age pregnancy—our rate is about 6 times that of European nations and a relatively low rate of contraceptive use.

Best countries are Italy, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Belgium. The study's author contends that the US rating is likely to drop if the current Congress has its way.

WELFARE CAP

The July/Aug 95 issue of Family Planning Perspectives analyzes the family cap as part of the rush to reform welfare. At the state and federal levels, time limits, tougher work rules and the requirement that minor parents live with their parents are proposed reforms. The cap, which denies higher cash payments to women who conceive and deliver on

welfare, is by far one of the more controversial pieces. (Average family on welfare has 2.6 children. Most pregnancies to poor women are unintended. In August, Congress narrowly passed Title X which provides family planning to low income women and prevented 300,000 pregnancies to women on welfare in 1993.)

The preliminary data from New Jersey's Cap suggest that it may not be having the impact as planned. We have no data on the impact on the 6200 children who were denied benefits in the 1st 12 months of the NJ program. Feminists for Life predicted correctly an increase in abortions.

Several states are seeking federal waivers to implement the cap.



CALENDAR

- Sept Survey of Candidates by Cortland Women's Coalition.
- Sept 12, Primary in both Democratic and Republican parties for county judge.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES ---
Dave Perfetti, Tom Gilhooley

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES ---
Emerson Avery Jr., John Ryan

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

- Nov 1, Election Newsletter and Voter's Guide.
- Nov 7, Election Day - Polls open 6 AM - 9 PM.
- Jan 1, Once-a-year request for membership renewal.
- Jan 22, Roe v Wade anniversary -- 23 years!

GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCI BEAU COUP TO:

* The Mailers and Funners.

* The Editors.

* The Contributors--we received more this year than ever before but that doesn't let you off the hook.

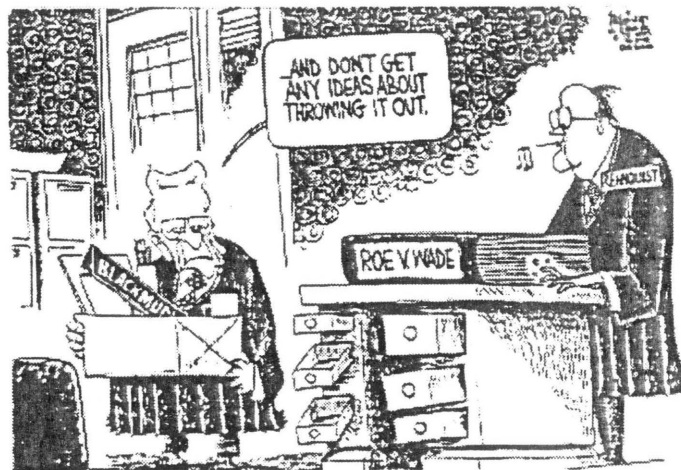
SEND A SAMPLE COPY OF THE CHOICE NEWSLETTER REQUEST FORM

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SHOULD
BE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER LET US
KNOW.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

SUGGESTED BY _____



Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions __\$50 __\$25 __\$20 __\$10 __Other

"office use: cb _____ cp _____ tx _____"

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045
NOVEMBER 1995
Vol.4, Number 9

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE, VOTE

POLLS OPEN 6AM - 9PM

WOMEN VOTERS—DROP OFF VOTERS

Fifty-nine (59%) of those who voted in the 1992 election but not in the 1994 election were women. The struggle to win the vote went on for 73 years. On Aug. 26 we commemorated the 75th anniversary of the 19th amendment. Will motor voter registration have an impact? In the past, only 10% of newly registered voters vote. We can do better!

NOTES AND QUOTES FROM THE OCT 6-7 STATE CHRISTIAN COALITION CONFERENCE IN SYRACUSE

"Planned Parenthood is the most ravenous blood thirsty group of people ever to assemble in the history of the world—they're perverts." "PP is no more normal than Hitler...." "Margaret Sanger had demonic passion"....these people take on the appearance of normalcy....this is a time of terrible moral distortion. These quotes are from the Rev Dan Little, Pierce Creek Church (Randy Terry's church) whose church lost its tax exempt status for taking an ad in USA Today charging that Gov Clinton, in rebellion of God's laws, supports abortion, the homosexual lifestyle and the distribution of condoms in the schools and that Christians should not vote for him.

Rev Rob Schenck of Wash DC's Operation Save Our Nation discussed his staging of prayer meetings in congressional offices. He assisted Randy Terry in putting a dead fetus in Clinton's face in NYC during the election. When on trial, Clinton's lawyer said that Schenck caused irreparable damage to Clinton's election. Schenck, now proudly has that sentence on his resume. The most interesting project of this group is to have a rabbi, priest, and minister team visit each rep. in Wash and present him or her each with their own set of 2 marble tablets (2ft tall) of the 10 commandments. They will keep track of who accepts and who doesn't.

The recurring themes at the conference were: anti-welfare, anti-abortion, anti-gay agenda, anti-gambling, anti-taxes, anti-media, and anti-NAFTA and GATT. Parents need their parental authority restored to them and the fed budget must be balanced.

NEBRASKA "ANTIS" KIDNAP, COERCE, PREGNANT 15-YEAR OLD

A terrifying story that might have come straight out of The Handmaid's Tale, took place in Blair, Nebraska, when a 15-year old and her boy friend told their parents that the young woman was pregnant. She and her family expected that "the decision whether to continue the 23-week pregnancy would be theirs to make."

In a lawsuit, however, Carl and Connie Scott, the teen's parents, contend that their house was "violently invaded by the boy friend, his parents and friends; their daughter was taken from them in the middle of the night by law enforcement officers determined to stop her from having an abortion; she was put into foster care, and finally, she was ordered by a judge not to abort the pregnancy."

An attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union's Reproductive Freedom Project, Janet Gallagher, asserted that there had been "an outrageous violation of this girl's individual rights. Boy friend interferences with women's choice to go ahead with, or end, a pregnancy has been a continuing problem all over the country, despite the fact that the courts have ruled over and over that this is a decision to be made by women. And this is the most flagrant instance I've seen of public authorities being drawn into and assisting that interference."

The New York Times 9/25/95

NEEDED: A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST UNINTENDED PREGNANCY

A report by the Institute of Medicine of the Nat'l Academy of Sciences urges a national campaign. Almost 60% of all pregnancies in the U.S. are unintended and 44% of all births in 1990 resulted from such pregnancies. Half of these unintended pregnancies are due to the lack of a contraceptive.

The child of an unwanted conception is less likely to have prenatal care and more likely to have fetal exposure to alcohol and tobacco, below birth weight and to be abused in the 1st year of life. Family Life Matters: Rutgers University, #26 Fall 95

SETTING UP FOR THE 96 ELECTION

The Democrats need to win 17 seats in the House to regain the majority. In Illinois State Sen Alice Palmer is running for Mel Reynold's seat. Jesse Jackson Jr. may also run a primary in March. There will be primaries and hot races in Maine, New Mexico, Ohio and Washington.

"WANTED" POSTERS AGAIN

Dr Gunn was a physician who provided abortions and was featured on a "wanted" posted before he was murdered by the anti-choice folks. The Republican Congressional Committee featured the photos of 28 Democratic members of the House who voted against the Contract on a "wanted" poster in a recent fundraiser appeal. Twenty-two of them were African-American, Hispanic, Jewish or female or a combo.

170 other Democratic House members matched or beat these voting records, but most were white males and they don't have the same fundraising appeal, according to Emily's List 9/95

NEW IRELAND

"New" because of the decoupling of the secular from the sectarian. Although illegal in Ireland, a new law allows women to get abortion counseling and referral according to the weekly Wash. Post of 5/29/95. This was "fought with all the conviction and resources" of the RC Church of Ireland. In April '95, the governmentt announced free sterilization and other methods of birth control—excluding condoms—to recipients of health care assistance. This Fall will see a referendum on legalizing divorce.

SEND THE RADICAL RIGHT PACKING

Here is what the RR leadership in Congress is trying to advance:

1. Cut funds for the Violence Against Women Act
2. Ban abortions in military hospitals even when personal funds pay.
3. Remove abortion coverage from federal employees health insurance.
4. Criminalize late term abortions.
5. Eliminate federal affirmative action.

RALPH REED

The leader of the Christian Coalition, this 33 year old political operative unites the religiously charged sentiments on abortion, homosexuality and family stability with conservative politics on health care, balanced budget, term limits and downsizing the federal government.

From stealth candidates in the 1980s to bold, heady politics in '94, Reed has been a major player with as many as 50 new members in Congress who owe their election to the coalition, according to the Christian Century (5/24/95). "Reed could arrive at the Republican convention with a large block of delegates ready to shape the platform and the VP nomination."

THE INTERFAITH ALLIANCE

This group of mainstream religious leaders declared at a 4/13/95 press conference in Wash DC that the first 100 days in Congress showed "very little of the Jewish or Christian values of brotherly love... Instead the moral compasses were directed by special interests, polls and headiness."

"A nation that treats its poor callously must live with the consequences....the children, the poor and the disabled do not have Rush Limbaugh, rich lobbyists or the Christian Coal (CC) defending their interests."

"The CC spent a million dollars to pass the Contract and \$1.4M to defeat health care reform. We can't allow religious extremists with a political agenda to push that agenda in God's name."

Christian Century 4/26/95

WOMEN'S FORUM IN BEIJING

The Vatican took a backseat in Beijing after strongly opposing the Cairo Population Conference's reproductive rights platform last year.

The anticipated angry public debate did not materialize. Quiet talks resulted in agreements to ask govts to review laws that punish women who have abortions.

Cort Standard 9/9/95



VOTERS RESEARCH HOTLINE

Order free copy of U.S. Government: Owner's Manual 1-800-622-SMART... candidate's voting records, campaign finances — how much and from whom, special interests votings.

STEALTH CANDIDATES BECOME STEALTH AIR FORCE

"Led by a radicalized class of freshman Republicans, the House has begun to pass a series of bills that would severely limit a woman's right to choose without overtly calling into question the Sup Court's '73 Roe ruling." The 9/7/95 Rolling Stone equates this fight with the Republican assault on health, environmental, and safety protection—they go after the "most vulnerable and controversial aspects of a generally popular cause while eschewing a public debate on the issue itself."

The article says that these legislators want to undo Clinton's pro choice executive orders; eliminate any federal funding for abortion, even for rape or incest; reinstitute the gag rule; institute criminal penalties for MDs who do late abortions; and undermine the Accreditation Council on Grad Med Ed requirements for all Ob Gyn residents to receive abortion procedure training. Arlen Specter is key Senate Republican moderate here (his presidential candidacy is based on fighting the Christian Right's take over of the party). In the House pro lifers are the majority but they do not have the votes to override a veto.

The reason that abortion is barely mentioned in the Contract, according to the article is that recent polls show support for choice by a 4 to 1 margin. Newt also stays clear of too much vituperative rhetoric on the topic. The author suggests that abortion is Clinton's single most important issue for victory. The moderates who sat out in '94 may come back to Clinton in '96 because the Rep freshman are playing to the zealots of the RR. Sherry Boehlert (R NY) says that the anti-choice position "violates the classical conservative position."

RTL political and legal failures have resonated on the movement's fringes with 169 clinic bombings and arsons since 1982. Armed militia are now on the anti choice horizons according to RS.

NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE AND RANDY TERRY

On the 8/31/95 "Morning Edition" of NPR, it was reported that the New England J. of Medicine has stepped up its security in response to a fax received from anti-abortion rights fighter, Randy Terry. Terry objected to the Journal's report on the latest research on 2 FDA approved medicines that could be used in combination to produce non surgical abortions similar to RU 486.

JANE ROE BORN AGAIN

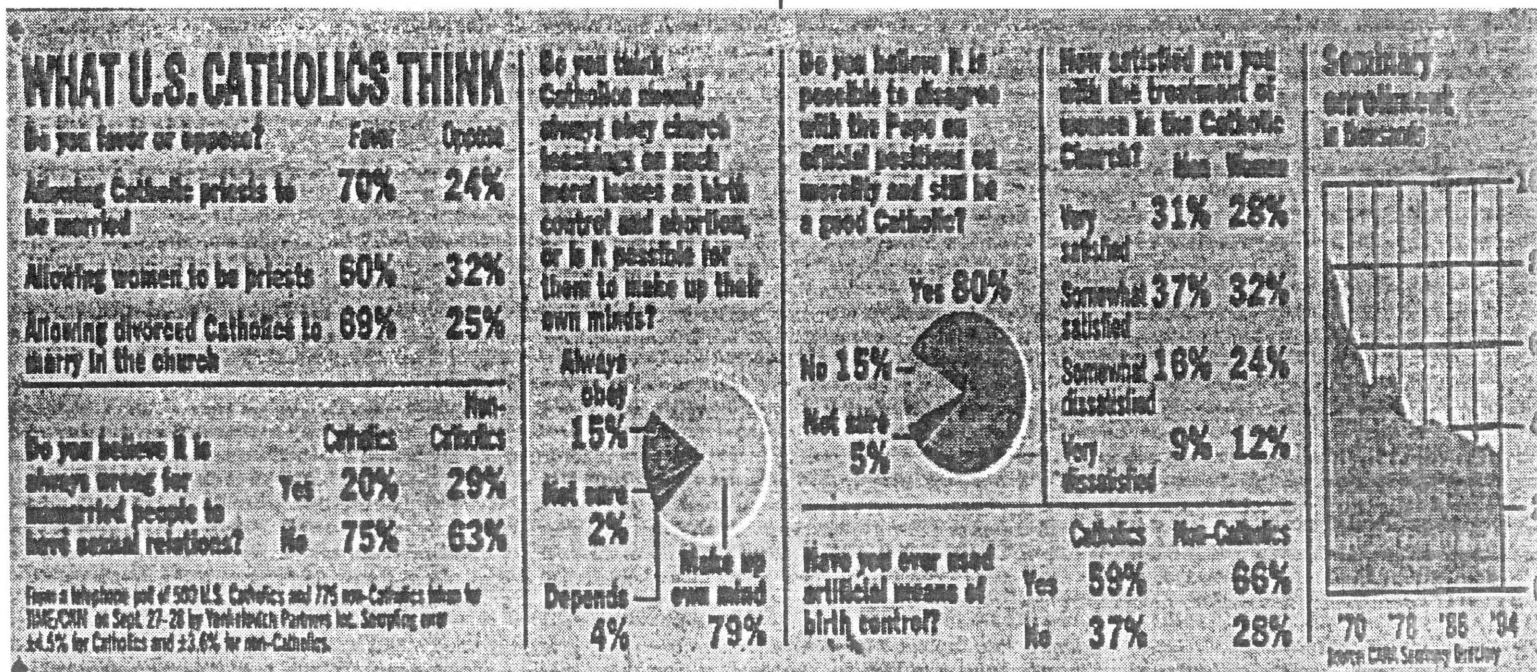
From abortion rights symbol to the new darling of the antis, Norma McCorvey moved from her job at the abortion clinic to a job next door at the office of Operation Rescue (OR). She is quoted as saying "abortion is wrong.... (but) I still believe in a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion (in the 1st trimester or if the baby is deformed)."

The Rev Flip Benham, leader of OR baptized McCorvey in a Dallas swimming pool and claims that he loves her. McCorvey's disaffection with the pro choice movement was always there. In her book, she indicated that she felt used by Sarah Weddington, the lawyer who argued her case. It could not be presented in time for her to get an abortion.

POPE'S VISIT

Despite the fact that most American Catholics disagree with the Pope on fairly substantive issues, he is beloved in this country as witnessed by the outpouring of celebrations and welcomes he received during his October visit.

Below is a survey of Catholic opinions from Time Magazine. (survey of Sept 27-28, 1995)



CORTLAND WOMEN'S COALITION: ELECTION 1995 SURVEY RESULTS

AAUW ♦ LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ♦ SUNY CORTLAND WOMEN STUDIES COMMITTEE ♦ YWCA ♦ ZONTA

1. Local lawmakers make decisions regarding personnel & employment practice s. If resources allow, do you support the following concepts or practices?

		MAYOR		CITY COUNCIL																	
KEY TO RESPONSES Y Yes N No * See comments. - No answer ? Don't know Blank No response despite several attempts to reach candidate.				W1		W2		W3		W4		W5		W6		W7		W8			
		W A L S H	T U C K E R	S M I T H	W E T H E R E L I N	T O B I N D O	G A L I N O	T Y V E N S	S T E V E N S	L I S S E R	U N O P O R T S E D	B E P R A R D I	F E R R O	B U S H E N L	H A N S E N	D I S C E N Z A	H Y D E	W A N I S S H	N E S S Y	U N O P P O S E D	
comparable worth		Y	Y			Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
equal pay for equal work		Y	Y			Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
flex time		*	Y			Y	Y	-		Y			-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
job sharing		*	Y			Y	Y	-		Y			-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
telecommuting		*	Y			Y	Y	Y		Y			-	Y	Y	Y	Y?	Y			
compression of work schedule		*	Y			Y	Y	-		Y			-	Y	N	Y	?	Y			

2. Welfare reform may require mothers with small children to work outside the home. Fulltime year round work at minimum wage puts a woman with two children \$3000 below poverty and without health insurance. Should city govt. financially support quality day care for these mothers since it has done so in the past?

-	-			Y	Y	*		Y			*	Y	N	Y	Y	N*			
---	---	--	--	---	---	---	--	---	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	----	--	--	--

3. Should city employee health insurance cover the following procedures:

mammography	*	Y			Y	Y	*		Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
female sterilization	*	N			Y	Y	*		Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y		
vasectomy	*	N			Y	Y	*		Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y		
abortion	*	N			*	N	*		N			N	Y	Y	Y	-	N		

4. Women have been leaders in Cortland's recent environmental struggles (LLRW and the hospital's incineration). We are now concerned that the basements in this county have the highest radon of any in the state. Should city building codes requires radon resistant new construction?

N	Y			Y	N	*		Y			*	Y	Y	N	Y	N			
---	---	--	--	---	---	---	--	---	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--

5. Should the city create a policy that all waste paper generated in city offices be recycled rather than landfilled?

Y	Y			Y	Y	*		Y			Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y			
---	---	--	--	---	---	---	--	---	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--

6. Does the city have a sexual harassment policy in place?

Y	*			Y	Y*	*		Y			N	N	Y	Y	Y	*			
---	---	--	--	---	----	---	--	---	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--

7. If a woman is in jail and pregnant, should options counseling be provided to her about abortion, adoption, and parenthood?

*	N*			Y*	Y	*		Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*			
---	----	--	--	----	---	---	--	---	--	--	---	---	---	---	---	----	--	--	--

COUNTY CANDIDATES SURVEY RESULTS - PART 1

1. Local lawmakers make decisions regarding personnel & employment practices. If resources allow, do you support the following concepts or practices?

COUNTY LEGISLATURE												
LD1	LD2	LD3	LD4	LD5	LD6	LD7	LD8					
T E E T E R	H A R R I S O N	B O I S E	H A B E R M E H L	H A R R I N G T O N	G O K E Y	V A N D E E	C O S I M O	O M A R A	M O O N E Y	C O N T E N T O	B U R D A	E D W A R D S
comparable worth	-	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
equal pay for equal work	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
flex time	-	Y*	Y		*	?	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
job sharing	-	?	Y		*	Y*	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
telecommuting	-	Y	Y		*	?	Y	-	N	Y		Y
compression of work schedule	-	Y	Y		*	?	?	-	Y	-		-

2. Welfare reform may require mothers with young children to work outside the home. A full time minimum wage job puts a mother with two children \$3000 below poverty and without health insurance. Should county govt. financially support quality day care for these women since it has done so in the past?

Y	Y*	Y		-	*	Y		Y	Y	N		Y
---	----	---	--	---	---	---	--	---	---	---	--	---

3. Should county employee health insurance cover the following procedures:

mammography	Y	Y	Y		Y	*	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y
female sterilization	-	Y*	Y		Y	*	Y		Y*	Y	Y		N
vasectomy	-	Y*	Y		Y	*	Y		Y*	Y	Y		N
abortion	-	Y*	Y*		Y	*	*		Y*	N	N		N

4. Women have been leaders in Cortland's recent environmental struggles (LLRW and the hospital incineration). We are now concerned that basements in this county have the highest radon of any in the state. Should the unified building code require radon resistant new construction?

Y	Y*	Y*		N	Y*	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y*
---	----	----	--	---	----	---	--	---	---	---	--	----

5. With concern for the landfill and our trees, should the county maintenance people be directed to not collect waste generated in county offices that has not been properly separated?

Y	Y*	N*		Y*	N	*		Y	Y	Y*		Y
---	----	----	--	----	---	---	--	---	---	----	--	---

6. Does the county have a sexual harassment policy in place?

?	?	*		*	*	Y		*	Y	Y*		Y
---	---	---	--	---	---	---	--	---	---	----	--	---

7. If a woman is in jail and pregnant, should options counseling be provided to her about abortion, adoption, and parenthood?

Y	Y*	Y*		Y	Y*	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y
---	----	----	--	---	----	---	--	---	---	---	--	---

8. ZAP (Zero Adolescent Pregnancy), Cortland's ten year prevention project has seen the number of teen pregnancies drop by 29% since 1990 to the lowest in decades. What steps could county government take to continue this trend.

8. ZAP (Zero-Adolescent Pregnancy), Cortland's ten year prevention project has seen the number of teen pregnancies drop by 29% since 1990 to the lowest in decades. What steps could local government take to continue this trend.

COMMENTS FOR CITY OF CORTLAND CANDIDATES:

WALSH - (1) Items subject to contract negotiation. Not appropriate for mayor, who negotiates, to comment. (3) Same as #1. (5) Currently done in some city offices. (7) City holds individuals overnight only. (8) Continue to participate with ZAP in our Youth Services Program with ZAP having continued presence at the Youth Center.

TUCKER - (6) I hope so. (7) Not by the city. (8) Provide financial help if possible.

GALINDO - (6) City follow guidelines set up by state & federal govt. (8) Nothing. If it's not broke, why fix it? Govt. can at time hamper efforts rather than enhance them.

TOBIN - (3) Spontaneous only (7) Not on abortion (8) Continue to support this excellent program through our youth activities funding at the Youth Center.

TYTLER - General comments: Complex questions. Yes/no answers doesn't provide sufficient response, e.g. how to insure that telecommuting doesn't become 21st Century equivalent of doing piece work at home. Sanctity of home important. In general, am a fiscal conservative, social progressive. We must address injustices in our society. Need variety of resources to correct. Money is not the only answer. Whole community effort and cooperation needed.

LISSBERGER - (8) Educating the young - teenagers, etc. It's the responsibility of parents, churches and community. We all have a responsibility.

BUSHNELL - (8) To encourage/facilitate education for ZAP in community, more visibility of the city's role in educating/informing youth of their roles in reproduction/prevention etc.

HANSEN - (6) I don't know. If there isn't, should be! (8) Continue to support ZAP. Explore additional education programs through City Youth Bureau.

FERRO - (2 & 4) Not know the facts. (8) County in charge of this program.

WANISH - (2) Where are the fathers? (6) Don't know -- should have. (7) Not abortion (8) Support ZAP however possible.

HYDE - (8) Provide an education program to all teens in high school.

DISCENZA (8) Continued education of teens.

SMITH Choose not to respond.

COUNTY SURVEY - PART 2

1. Local lawmakers make decisions regarding personnel & employment practices. If resources allow, do you support the following concepts or practices?

	LD9	LD10	LD11	L12	LD13	L14	LD15	LD16	LD17	LD18	L19
	PARTIGIAN ONLINE	UNOPPOSED DAFOE	WERNER	POTTER COOK	UNOPPOSED MERCER	THOMPSON TUPPER	ARMSTRONG	THOMPSON DWEILER	UNOPPOSED LAW	HOME	UNOPPOSED PROMISE
comparable worth	Y		Y	Y - Y	Y	Y Y	Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y
equal pay for equal work	Y		Y	Y Y N	Y	Y Y	Y	Y Y	Y	Y	Y
flex time	Y		Y	Y - N	Y	Y Y	Y	Y Y	Y*		Y
job sharing	Y		Y	N Y N*	Y	Y Y	Y	Y Y	N		Y
telecommuting	Y		?	N - Y*	Y	Y Y	N	Y *	N		Y
compression of work schedule	Y		Y	Y - Y*	Y	Y Y	?	Y ?	?		Y

2. Welfare reform may require mothers with young children to work outside the home. A full time minimum wage job puts a mother with two children \$3000 below poverty and without health insurance. Should county govt. financially support quality day care for these women since it has done so in the past?

Y			Y		N	Y	N*		?	N	Y	Y*	Y	Y		N		Y
---	--	--	---	--	---	---	----	--	---	---	---	----	---	---	--	---	--	---

3. Should county staff health insurance cover the following procedures:

mammography	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y		?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y*
female sterilization	Y		Y		Y	N	N		?	N	Y	-	N	N		N		Y*
vasectomy	Y		Y		Y	N	N		?	N	Y	-	N	N		N		Y*
abortion	?		N		Y*	N	*		?	N	Y	N	N	N		N		Y*

4. Women in Cortland County have been in the forefront of environmental issues such as LLRW & hospital incineration of medical & non-medical wastes. This county has the highest radon level in homes of any in the state. Should county building codes requires radon resistant new construction?

Y			Y		Y	Y	N*		?	Y	Y*	Y	Y	N		*		Y
---	--	--	---	--	---	---	----	--	---	---	----	---	---	---	--	---	--	---

5. With concern for the landfill and our trees should the county maintenance people be directed to **not** collect waste from county offices that have not been properly separated?

*			Y		Y	-	Y*		?	Y*	Y	Y	Y	N*		Y		Y
---	--	--	---	--	---	---	----	--	---	----	---	---	---	----	--	---	--	---

6. Does the county have a sexual harassment policy in place?

-			-		-	Y	*		Y	Y	?	Y	Y	*		Y		Y
---	--	--	---	--	---	---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	--	---

7. If a woman is in jail and pregnant, should options counseling be provided to her about abortion, adoption, and parenthood?

Y*			*		Y	*	*		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y
----	--	--	---	--	---	---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	--	---

8. ZAP (Zero Adolescent Pregnancy), Cortland's ten year prevention project has seen the number of teen pregnancies drop by 29% since 1990 to the lowest in decades. What steps could county government take to continue this trend.

COMMENTS -- CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY OFFICES

HARRISON - (1) If qualified. (2) With certain limits. (3) B & C-not elective. D-some circumstances. (4) Individuals responsible in existing housing. (5) In favor of blue bags. (6) Not sure. Should be. (7) Absolutely. (8) Requires alot of thought. Tough question. Certainly something.

TEETER - (6) Don't know. (7) Parenthood circled. (8) Keep good people on staff like we have now.

BOISE - (3) Under certain circumstances. (4) If necessary and applicable. (5) Maintenance should report incorrect separation so that departments can learn to do properly. (6) I'm not sure. Should be written by us, not state or feds. (7) Under certain conditions. (8) Keep supporting ZAP and programs like this one from the Women's Health Center.

HARRINGTON - (1) Would support if applicable. (5) In most cases. (6) Only the rules of federal and state law.

GOKEY - (1) If qualified. Don't know at local level. (2) Possibly county can help -- hard for mothers. (3) All benefits should be negotiated. (4) Study first. (5) If home owners do, the county should. (6) Thinks yes. (7) If counselors available. (8) Better education.

VAN DEE - (3) Depends on circumstances. (5) County has just started -- should be enforced. (8) Education programs in school. Work with DSS.

O'MARA - (3) If necessary to person's health. If rape or incest. (6) Don't know. Should have plan with majority of input from women. (8) Let adults know what ZAP is about. Educate adults in prevention for their children.

CONTENTO - (5) Already separating. (8) Continue to teach abstinence and the dangers of early sexual activity.

EDWARDS - (4) If proven to work. (8) Continue partnership and support. Acknowledge positive results.

PARTIGIANONI - (3) Don't know. (5) Depends. (7) Whether in jail or not! (8) Keep doing everything and if funds continue, improve until it's 100%.

WERN - (7) Not abortion. (8) More self esteem programs.

COOK - (3) Up to first trimester.

PLEW - (1) D-would lose concept of job. 1-F: Watch employer abuses, e.g. hiring fewer people.

(2) I serve on Human Resources Comm. for county. Welfare people get too much already. "The more you give, the more you take." Day care should not be free. Pay something. (3D) MD decision; rape and medical reasons. (4) Too expensive for homeowners. (5) Educate staff. (6) Don't know. Assume so. (7) The child is her own. Counsel the habitual felon. (8) County supports ZAP. Another program would be repetitious. Work hand in hand with DSS.

NIVER - (7) No abortion counseling. (8) Quit sending mixed messages -- by teaching sexual responsibility.

MEICZINGER - (4) More investigation needed. (8) ZAP has done a great job. Yes/no format too simple. Money limits what we as legislators would like to do. We need to look at greatest need. Need to look at wanted services vs. needed services. Difficult to withdraw grant funded services when funds run out.

TUPPER - (2) Federal and state mandates on social programs send unfair tax burden on property owners. (5) Have installed larger separate bins around County Office Bldg. (7) Not abortion. (8) Continue ZAP programs of education and peer counseling. Possibly begin with younger students. Try to involve more male students.

ATWOOD - (4) Enforce where applicable. Radon problem mainly in valleys. (6) Don't know. Should be policy. Should be enforced. (8) Continue funding and wise use of personnel and money.

ARMSTRONG - (1) C & D - case by case basis. (2) In certain instances. (8) Continue ZAP program with funding from county govt.

TINELLI - (1) E- Depends on position. Believes in supervision. (5) Serves on Bldgs. and Grounds Committee. (6) State and federal policies are in place. (8) Expand Health Dept. role. Educate children on choices and options. Constantly re-evaluate programs to update.

DWYER - (8) Education.

LAW - (1) C - in some instances. (4) Need more information on cost. (8) ZAP doing a good job already. ZAP programs in school are good.

PRICE - (3) Yes with hesitancy. Patient and doctor to explore unique personal and medical situation. Abortion not used as birth control. (8) Continue to support and encourage the many people and organizations that have made ZAP so successful.

NO NAME - (8) Keep working at it.

CAN'T DEPEND ON THE SENATE EITHER

On Aug 5 and after 6 hours of debate, the Senate rejected "medically necessary" abortions for federal employees by a vote of 45 to 49

CHOICE INTERNET

The Abortion Rights Activist Home Page on the internet is <http://www.cais.com/agm/>

AMERICANS ARE DISENGAGED

One third more people went bowling in 1993 than voted in the 1994 election. According to the 9/95 national League of Women Voters newsletter, Americans' direct engagement in politics and government has fallen sharply during the last generation, despite the fact that the average levels of education have risen sharply. Attendance at public meetings has fallen off as has participation in churches, the PTA, the Red Cross, the Boy Scouts, the League, etc. However, the Sierra Club, NOW, and AARP did grow in the 1970s and 1980s. The Christian Coalition tripled its membership in the past 2 years.

Mass membership organizations like AARP don't tie individuals together. The article suggests that the current democratic disarray in America may be linked to a broad and continuous erosion of civic engagement that began 25 years ago. (ed note. We experienced the loss of the living wage at this time. Women went to work, not to the PTA).



CALENDAR

- Nov 7, Election Day - Polls open 6 AM - 9 PM.
- Jan 1, CCFC Issue -- Our annual appeal for membership
- Jan 22, Roe v Wade anniversary -- 23 years!

GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCI BEAU COUP TO:

- * The Mailers and Funners.
- * The Editors.
- * The Contributors--we received more this year than ever before but that doesn't let you off the hook.

CONDOMS BREAK, PEOPLE GET SWEEPED AWAY AND WOMEN ARE RAPED

The Nation's best kept secret is emergency contraception in 3 forms:

Specific doses of the ordinary birth control pill
Minipills

Copper T 380 A

Here's places to get more info:

Phone 800-721-6990 or World Wide Web at

URL:<http://opr.princeton.edu/ec/ec.html>.

RANDELL TERRY OPENS MEN'S TRAINING CENTER

The 8/9/95 front page of the Press & Sun Bulletin is quoted below:

Terry will house the Center in his Outlook Farm religious retreat on Route 79 south of Windsor, NY. He says "We are desperate for righteous, courageous, biblically oriented (male only) leadership. Classes to be offered include The Warrior Mind and Lame Eschatology and the Neutered Church. Terry hopes to train politicians, doctors, journalists, businessmen, anyone who wants to help rid those fields of the "unrighteous, human socialists" who currently dominate them. Classes are taught by "well known Christian leaders:" anti abortion crusader George Grant and Howard Phillips, founder of the US Taxpayers Party, of which Terry is a board member. The party's platform calls for abolishing taxes and abortion rights, stopping fed aid to education and replacing welfare with Christian charity.

Terry is also considering a run for Congress against Sherry Boehlert.

The best quote of all, "Friends, I want to point out that there's not a rat's eyebrow's difference between Bob Dole and Bill Clinton." Terry says that the Rep and Dem parties are both socialist.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions __\$50 __\$25 __\$20 __\$10 __Other

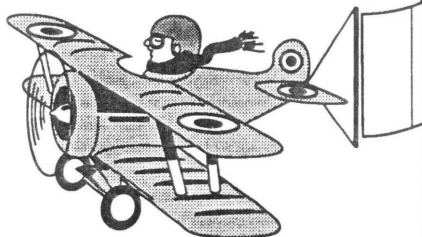
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Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

January 1996
Vol.5, Number 1



JANUARY IS ANNUAL RENEWAL MONTH

LET'S ACT RATHER THAN REACT

WE WERE SHOCKED WHEN WE COUNTED! THIS RAG TAG TEAM HAS KEPT THIS A VIABLE NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS. OUR GRASS ROOTS EFFORTS REACH SOME 500+ CORTLAND FAMILIES WHO SUPPORT THIS NEWSLETTER WITH FUNDS, LABOR, DONATIONS OF STAMPS AND ENVELOPES, AND THEIR COMMITMENT TO CHOICE. YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT LAST YEAR ALLOWED US TO WEATHER THE INCREASE IN POSTAGE AND WONDER OF WONDERS, WE HAVE \$5 TO SPARE AT THE END OF THE YEAR. THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

NOW WE AGAIN ASK YOU, OUR SUPPORTERS, TO MAIL US YOUR GENEROUS ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS. HELP US REFRAME THE ISSUE FOR THIS ALL-IMPORTANT ELECTION YEAR.

WAS THE 1994 ELECTION A MANDATE FOR YOUR VALUES? WELL THEN, LET'S ACT RATHER THAN REACT.

OUR ANNUAL EXPENSES

MAILING	\$ 850
LAYOUT	\$ 150
PRINTING	\$ 510
PO BOX	\$ 40
TOTAL	\$1550

HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Founded and funded by Coors Brewing President, this conservative think tank has historically had staff and advisory board with ties to racist or neo-Nazi groups. President Reagan adopted 2/3 of the Heritage's policy recommendations during his terms.

NARAL/NY

OTHER GRASS ROOTS EFFORTS

1. Emily's List

One zillion little people (like you and me) have made Emily's List the biggest PAC in the country. It supports only pro-choice Democratic women. In 5 short years it has helped elect 5 women to the US Senate, 33 women to the House and 2 women as governors.

Dianne Feinstein says, "Michael Huffington had \$30 million to spend on winning the California Senate race. I had Emily's List. That is why I'm still in the US Senate." Send contributions: 805 15th St NW, Suite 400, Washington DC 20005.

2. Women's TAP (Taking Action in Politics)

This is a western NY non partisan political action committee that was instrumental in electing 9 of its 11 candidates in 1995. Donors contribute \$1000 and candidates must be women, pro-choice, pro-ERA, and pro-child care. In the first 3 years, TAP has contributed \$32,000 to pro-choice women candidates.

BISHOP LEADS SYRACUSE ANTI ABORTION MARCH

Bishop James Moynihan, leader of 370,000 Catholics in CNY led a mile long march in Dec. The 150-200 marchers ended at Planned Parenthood for an hour of silent prayer. Among the protestors was the Rev. Norman Weslin, the leader of the controversial national anti-choice group, the Lambs of Christ. He is a 65 yr old priest who plans to settle in CNY. The "Lambs" blockade clinics and his move here signals an escalation in aggressive protests. The Bishop's involvement marks a change also in the local anti-ab movement according to one participant.

Herald J. 12/7/95 and Cort Standard 12/9/95

Please Renew -- We Need You!

YOU CAN HELP — CALL YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL TODAY

Right here in River City, we are experiencing the effects of religious conservatism on the public school health and sexuality education curricula. Note the November 95 series of letters to the editor about ZAP, a teen pregnancy prevention program of the Health Dept, the YWCA, and the Cortland Youth Bureau. (Five letters against and 10 for the program.) This type of public controversy puts fear into the hearts of school administrators. A few outspoken community people visit the superintendents and complain very loudly that no one should have sex until marriage. Although some might agree with that, the fact is that 43% of 15 year olds and 70% of seniors are having sex and are at risk for HIV, STIs and pregnancy. ZAP has provided funds to each school district in the county to implement the Postponing Sexual Involvement (PSI) curriculum. In the Atlanta schools, the kids who had these 5 peer taught lessons on communication and resistance skills were 4-5 times less likely to INITIATE sexual intercourse in 8th grade compared to those who did not have the course. Throughout the 9th grade, the PSI kids were one-third less likely to become sexually active. Prevention is far better than remediation.

We need to reframe the issue. We need to not always be on the defensive. Please call or write your school administrator in support of ZAP's efforts in the community and encourage PSI in your school. PSI has been featured on PBS, in Newsweek and Parade Magazine in past year.

TEEN PREGNANCY STATISTICS CORTLAND, CONTIGUOUS COUNTIES, UPSTATE AND THE STATE 1990-1993

Here are the percent increases/decreases in the rates of pregnancy for 15-19 year olds between 1990 and 1993. ZAP did not exist in 1990. 1991-1993 are the first three years of ZAP in the community.

NY State	+3.9%
Upstate NY	-11.0
Madison	-39.2
Chenango	-35.3
CORTLAND	-25.6
Cayuga	-23.1
Broome	-09.8
Tompkins	-08.6
Tioga	-05.7
Onondaga	-03.6

Cortland initially modeled its teen pregnancy prevention program on the Chenango efforts and then ZAP's energy so impressed Chenango that ZAP was asked and provided 9 different programs within their schools and to their task force. There is a mutual sharing of research and data.

Of our 8 contiguous counties, Cortland has the:

- LOWEST PER CAPITA INCOME,
- Largest % of CHILDREN (0-17) living IN POVERTY (22%),

- Highest rate of founded CHILD ABUSE calls, and the
- Highest percent of high school drop outs.

It is also higher than the upstate average with regard to child hospital admissions for INTENTIONAL INJURIES. Considering these factors, the decrease of teen pregnancy in Cortland is quite a significant accomplishment.

With the implementation of PSI, a ZAP impact will hopefully continue to be felt. County teachers will be trained this summer.

FACING THE 1996 ELECTION

We know from the 1994 election that the zealots of the Christian Coalition can turn out the voters. That election was won with the votes of angry white males. Well, maybe more importantly, it was lost by the complacent women and pro-choice voters who stayed home. THE HUGE REPUBLICAN VICTORY WAS WON WITH AN OVERALL VOTE SHIFT OF JUST 2%. Even in conservative Erie County, the Pro-Choice voter ID project shows voters are 2 to 1 in our favor.

Source: Speak Out, Buffalo NY., nov-dec 95

SOME MAJOR VICTORIES FOR OUR SIDE

1. BUFFALO PRO-CHOICE NETWORK WINS

A US 2nd Court of Appeals agreed with our brave friends in Buffalo, in restoring a 15 foot buffer zone for demonstrators at clinics providing abortions. It also banned side walk counselors from harassing patients. Our side lost some protections in the anti-choicers' first appeal but they didn't give up. THANK YOU, STRONG FRIENDS in Buffalo.

Network Newsletter 11/95

2. COUPLE WINS \$8.6 MIL IN DAMAGES FROM OR

A Dallas federal jury awarded a physician and his wife this large sum to be paid by Operation Rescue and 10 individual abortion protesters who tormented the couple for a year. The doctor had his privacy destroyed by picketers at his office, hospital, church, home and wife's workplace as well as by phone calls and mail. The Rev. Flip Benham of OR said "We don't have that kind of money."

10/26/95 Cort Standard

3. COLORADO ABORTION FUNDING

The Supreme Court rejected this state's attempt to deny poor women, who were the victims of rape or incest, Medicaid funded abortions.

12/5/95 Cort Standard

CHOICE DOWNSIDES

• Rescue America, one of the nation's militant anti-abortion groups moved from Texas to Baltimore where the courts have not prohibited such groups from impeding access to clinics. NYT 12/1/95

• The House and the Senate (54-44) both voted to ban late term abortions. Clinton considers that a "an erosion of a woman's right to choose." He threatens a veto because the bill did not allow for life or health of the mother.

NYT 12/9/95

LET THEM KNOW WHAT YOU THINK— WRITE NOW

Okay, we're feeling guilty. We complain, complain, complain about Congress and Pataki and rarely write to them. Some of us are so lazy that we let Working Assets send two letters/month to Congress in our names. Here's help if you have the same problem:

CITY COUNCIL

WARD 1 RALPH SMITH	D 756-6176
WARD 2 KEN TOBIN	D 753-7417
WARD 3 BRUCE TYTLER	D 753-7338
WARD 4 STEVE LISSBERGER	D 756-9180
WARD 5 DENISE BUSHNELL	D 756-2682
WARD 6 TRISH HANSEN	D 756-8910
WARD 7 BUTCH HYDE	D 756-9414
WARD 8 KATHLEEN HENNESSY	D 753-7275

COUNTY LEGISLATURE

LD1 RUSS TEETER	D 753-0075
2 SKIP BOISE	D 756-9061
3 STEVE HARRINGTON	D 753-1032
4 LIONEL GOKEY	D 753-3286
5 RON VANDEE	D 753-1328
6 PAT O'MARA	D 756-0968
7 MARY CONTENTO	D 753-8678
8 CARLETTA EDWARDS	R 753-0244
9 NANCY DAFOE	R 749-2937
10 DAVID WERN	R 749-4585
11 JACQUELINE COOK	R 749-3163
12 DAVID PLEW	R 836-6311
13 MARIAN MEICZINGER	R 753-0145
14 DICK TUPPER	R 753-6206
15 GEORGE ARMSTRONG	R 749-7118
16 LEO DWYER	D 842-6597
17 TED LAW	R 863-3883
18 RAY HOMER	R 849-6008
19 SANDY PRICE	D 835-6711

PRESIDENT

BILL CLINTON D
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASH DC 20500
202-456-1414/456-2883 FAX

SPEAKER

NEWT GINGRICH R
202-2225-4501/225-4656

SENATE MAJORITY

BOB DOLE R
202-224-6521/228-4569

GOVERNOR

GEORGE PATAKI R STATE CAPITAL, ALBANY 12224
518-474-8390

ATTORNEY GENERAL

DENNIS VACCO R STATE CAPITAL 474-7330/473-9908

NY SENATE Legislative Office Bldg, Albany, 12247
JIM SEWARD R 518-4555-3131/455-3123 FAX

NY ASSEMBLY Legislative Office Bldg, Albany 12248
MARTY LUSTER D 518-455-5444/455-4640
DAN FESSENDEN R 455-5878/455-3895

US SENATE Washington DC 20510
AL D'AMATO R 202-244-6542/224-5871
DANIEL MOYNIHAN D 224-4451/228-0406

CONGRESSIONAL SWITCHBOARD 800-972-3524

US CONGRESS Washington DC 20515
JIM WALSH R 202-225-3701/225-4042

DIAL 1-800-622-SMART for excellent voters guide for congress

RAPE CASE D.A. RUNS AS RIGHT TO LIFER

The Canton NY District Attorney Richard Manning who virtually let off 5 men for the infamous pool table gang rape found a home with the Right to Life party in Nov. Shunned by voters of his own Republican and the Conservative Parties, RTL party members signed his petition to run. Manning has been sued by his former secretary for sexual harassment. She got an out of court settlement. His two assistants resigned saying that they could not work with him. Statewide officials for the RTL said that they were not aware of Manning's difficulties in the county but that it didn't matter as long as he opposed abortion.

11/2/95 Cort. Standard

1995 ELECTION RESULTS — A VERY GOOD YEAR

For the first time since anyone can remember, the Cortland City Council is 100% Democratic and it's been estrogenized—3 of 8 seats are now held by women! Six women and 13 men were elected to the County Legislature. The Democrats gained 2 seats and are within one seat of the majority.

One particular member of the county legislature in responding to the Women's Coalition candidate phone interview responded to the question re health insurance funding of abortion with the classical quote, "If she plays, she has to pay." Ed: Spare me!

SAM'S CLUB

This company, part of Walmart, pulled from its Florida store shelves, a tee shirt which stated, "Someday this Woman will be President", because a buyer said that it was a violation of the company's family values. The Vestal SAMs would not allow Planned Parenthood to be a part of a Health Fair and ended up canceling the whole thing.

Chenango Voters for Choice Newsletter 10/95

NEWS FLASH NEWS FLASH

Sex Education in Our Schools
A Community Dialogue
Unitarian Universalist Church
3 Church Street
January 26 or 27th, 1996
Watch the Cortland Standard
for Details

NEW YORK SPENDS LESS THAN TWO CENTS ON PREVENTION OF TEEN PREGNANCY FOR EVERY DOLLAR SPENT AFTER THE FACT—A SHORT SIGHTED POLICY THAT IS COSTING STATE TAXPAYERS BILLIONS.

CLARENCE THOMAS

The same person who handled Thomas through the Supreme Court hearing was going to handle Colin Powell. And by the way, the CNY Christian newspaper quotes Thomas "You cannot embrace racism to deal with racism. It's not Christian, if I type one word at my word processor in one opinion against whites, I break God's law"

CALENDAR

- Jan 22, Roe vs Wade 23rd Anniversary
- Jan 29-30, Family Planning Advocates
Legislative Conference - Albany - Call
753-8510 for registration information.
- May, School Board Elections
- Nov, State and National Elections

DOLE'S SWITCH ON ABORTION INFURIATES GOP RIGHT

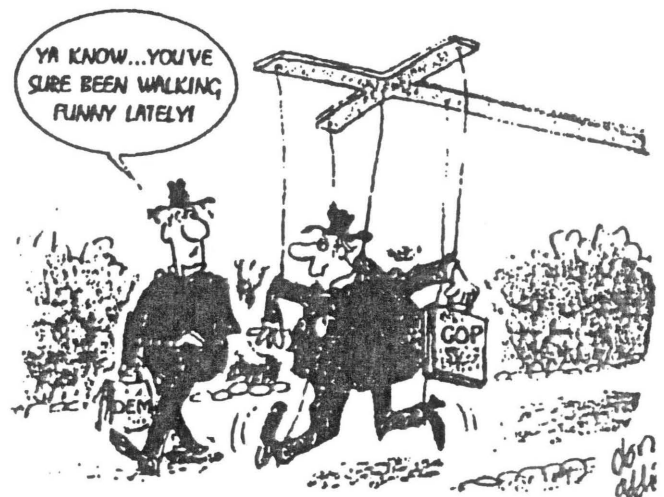
On "Meet the Press," Dole said that he would not again support a constitutional ban on abortion (a plank of the GOP since 1980). He terms himself pro-life but would now make some exceptions.

Alan Keyes, radio talk show host and anti-abortion Republican presidential candidate said, "...Dole is no good for those who care about a moral agenda."

Rebecca Lindstedt, Iowans for Life, he will regret "the pro-abortion rhetoric he spouted forth yesterday."

Ralph Reed of the Christian Coalition, "there is no issue more transcendent" and his organization will be distributing 22 million voters guides in the primaries reflecting Mr.Dole's position.

NYT 12/19/95



GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

- * To Joe for the college distribution of Nov. newsletter
- * To Ellen, our usual distributor
- * To Pat for spirit and good ideas
- * To our GOOD MAILERS
- * To all our would-be Supporters this month

Newsletter/Membership Form

NEVER THINK THAT WE ARE TOO SMALL TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE • KEEP INFORMED

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Contribution: \$50 ___ \$25 ___ \$20 ___ \$10 ___

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

"office use: cb ___ cp ___ tx ___"

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice • P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

May 1996
Vol. 5, Number 2

VOTE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

MAY 7 CORTLAND • MAY 15 HOMER

SEE VIEWS IN ENCLOSED SURVEYS

CANDIDATES REVEAL VIEWS IN LOCAL SURVEYS

Each year the Women Coalition consisting of the League of Women Voters, The Women's Studies Committee at SUNY, AAUW, Zonta, and the Public Affairs Committee of the YWCA survey candidates on their positions on women's issues. No endorsements are made. The summary of results is distributed to the member groups and appears in the Cortland Standard as an ad. Our Choice group replicates the results and makes them available in our May and November mailings as a courtesy to our members.

HOLD THIS DATE! SEPT 21 THE WOMEN'S COALITION WILL SPONSOR ITS BI-ANNUAL MEET THE CANDIDATES BRUNCH AT THE COUNTRY CLUB. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME EVER THAT ONE OF CORTLAND'S OWN IS RUNNING FOR CONGRESS. IT IS SURE TO BE LIVELY!

NOW STATE LEGISLATURE WILL ATTEMPT A BAR ON D & X PROCEDURE AND TO PASS PARENTAL NOTIFICATION LAW

There are yet more attempts to pass restrictive law on this abortion procedure and the parental notification law. Recall a parental notification bill passed the NYS Senate for the 1st time during the last session with the compromise of dropping the age from 17 to 15. Sen. Charles Cook (R) said, "If the bill really prevented abortions ... I might be tempted to vote for it....this bill attempts to force, by the power of the state, a relationship which had to have been fostered from birth....(it's) a law used as a weapon to discipline a daughter."
SPEAKOUT of Buffalo 3/96

MORE FROM BUFFALO—HOME OF THE BRAVE AND THE DILIGENT

You noted in our January newsletter that the US 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the ban on demonstrating within 15 ft. of a clinic, of patients or vehicles entering or

leaving the clinic parking lot. Now the antis (Pat Robertson) are requesting a review which may take this to the Supreme Court. Watch for **Schenck vs. Pro-Choice Network of Western NY**. Schenck and his twin, both clergy caused much disruption during the Operation Rescue siege of Buffalo abortion clinics in the Spring of 1992. One of them assisted Randall Terry put a fetus in Clinton's face in NYC during the presidential campaign. The same person now goes office to office on Capitol Hill and presents our reps with their very own marble tablets of the 10 commandments.

CONGRESS PRACTICES MEDICINE— D AND X ABORTION PROCEDURE BANNED IN BOTH HOUSES

The President vetoed this bill on 4/10/96 because it did not allow for the health of a woman. The ban on this rarely performed, late trimester abortion procedure is the first time since *Roe v Wade* that a procedure was legislated. The term, "partial birth" abortion is a RTL red flag used to sensationalize the issue. There is no such medical term.

There is no abortion procedure that is acceptable to an anti-choice person. One half of 1% of all abortions are performed after 20 weeks, and generally these are done for the most agonizing of reasons—life endangerment, fertility impairment or severe fetal anomalies.

Please thank President Clinton for this vote. E-mail: President@whitehouse.gov/ or phone: (202) 456-1111.

BETTER BILL— NYS FAMILY COMMUNICATION BILL

This would be an inclusive bill related to any sensitive serious health matters (HIV, STDs, pregnancy) that face young men and women. It would make counseling and other support services available and would encourage discussions with parents, foster parents, clergy or other concerned adult.

FPA and SPEAKOUT of Buffalo 3/96

OMNIBUS SPENDING BILL RESTRICTS REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

1. Both Houses approved a provision that allows states to deny Medicaid funded abortions in situations of rape or incest. Federal Medicaid law requires states to cover procedures for these reasons. (NY chooses to fund medicaid abortions for rape, incest and medical necessity. In Cortland, since 1989, no doctor will perform a medicaid abortion. Abortions for women with insurance or cash are available as they have always been).

2. The Senate voted 45-55 against the District of Columbia using locally raised revenue to pay for low-income women's abortions.

3. In a 52-43 vote on 3/14/96, the Senate defeated an attempt to deny funding for international family planning and population programs. The original bill cut aid by 35% and provided that funds would not flow until July and only in monthly increments. Nat'l Public Radio said that 50 M couples overseas depend upon US supported family planning aid. This aid prevents 5,000-10,000 maternal deaths each year and 200,000-450,000 abortions. Child spacing is necessary for child survival as well. Reagan and Bush allowed no funds to intn't f.p.agencies that also provided abortions, even though, done with private funds. Clinton, "with a stroke of his pen" lifted that ban within the first days of his administration. One need only look at Romania to assess the impact of forbidding family planning services—illegal abortions went up dramatically.

Reproductive Freedom News v5 #6 3/22/96

REFLECTIONS OF A PROCHOICE WOMAN COMING TO TERMS WITH THE MISCARRIAGE OF HER 4 MONTH PREGNANCY—NYT HERS COLUMN '94

A wanted pregnancy means a woman is able to build a child's body out of her own flesh and blood and build an emotional place for that child through her dreams and her imagination. A baby that is not wanted is one to whom a woman cannot give that second, irreplaceable gift of motherhood.

For a child to come into the world without that joyful anticipation is a spiritual handicap as damaging as any physical one.

HOSPITAL MERGERS

Increasingly hospitals are closing or merging in this changing health care environment. If Cortland Memorial Hospital were to merge with St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse here is what would not be available:

1. emergency contraception (morning after pill) for rape victims
2. tubal ligation
3. vasectomy
4. contraceptive services or supplies
5. abortions

MAJORITY OF REPUBLICANS ARE PRO-CHOICE

"Welcome to The 71% Solution, the voice of Planned Parenthood Republicans for Choice. Why the name? A recent poll shows that 71% of this nation's registered Republicans are pro-choice." This is an introduction to a new journal charged to bring changes in their party's platform and policies because this 71% is not reflected in the House or Senate, or when reading the newspaper or watching TV.

For more information call (212) 261-4631.

THREE GOVERNORS WANT ANTI-ABORTION PLANK REMOVED

Republican Governors Pataki, Whitman and Weld will be fighting to have this plank removed before their convention. They say it should not be a defining issue for the party. Recall Pataki's 10 year anti-choice voting record. What's happening?

NPR 4/15/96

THE VIOLENCE OF THE ANTIS

In the past three years, four doctors, 1 escort and 2 clinic receptionists were murdered. Seven others were injured in terrorist attacks on clinics. Is there a connection between this violence and the current decreasing availability of the procedure?

ANTI-CHOICE MARCH TO THE BACK ALLEY

Anti-choice goals for 1995 include:

DEFEAT DR. HENRY FOSTER'S NOMINATION FOR SURGEON GENERAL	✓ DONE
ALLOW STATES TO BAN MEDICAID ABORTIONS FOR RAPE AND INCEST	✓ PASSED HOUSE
CURTAIN TRAINING OF MEDICAL RESIDENTS IN ABORTION PROCEDURES	✓ PASSED HOUSE
END COVERAGE OF ABORTION IN FEDERAL EMPLOYEE'S INSURANCE PLANS	✓ DONE
BAN THE SAFEST PROCEDURES FOR LATE-TERM ABORTIONS	✓ PASSED BOTH HOUSES
DENY ACCESS TO ABORTION TO SERVICE WOMEN OVERSEAS	✓ PASSED HOUSE

WHAT IF

All the millions of people who watched the OJ trail for 16 months had instead watched Congress dismantle 60 years of progressive legislation?

WOMEN IN OFFICE

US House and Senate	10.5%
NY State Legislature	18.5%
Cortland County Legislature	32.0%
Cortland City Council	38.0%

1994 RACES WHERE THE GENDER GAP MADE THE DIFFERENCE

CA US Senate—Dianne Feinstein
NJ US Senate—Frank Lautenberg
VA US Senate—C. Robb over Ollie North
FL Gov—Lawton Chiles over J. Bush
NY Att Gen—Vacco over Burstein

In all of the above races, the exit polls showed that males or females gave the margin of victory to these candidates. Only in Vacco's election, did males elect the candidate.

UNAVAILABILITY OF ABORTION

1. Between 1988 and 1992 the number of abortion providers declined by 8%—twice the rate of decline in the previous 4 years.
 2. In the same years, the number of hospitals offering abortions dropped by 18%.
 3. Out of 130 hospitals in 1992 that performed abortions in NY only 25 now do. Cortland's does not.
 4. 74% of the counties outside of NY city have no abortion provider. Cortland does.
 5. Hospital residents are untrained in the procedure.
 6. Only 17 % of the counties in the US have an abortion provider.
- These facts make the few clinics which do provide abortions very vulnerable to anti-choice extremists. *NY NARAL letter*

ABORTION SURVEILLANCE 1993

According to preliminary data from the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Review of the CDC, there was a 2.1% decrease in abortions from 1992 while live births decreased by 1.6%. The national abortion rate was 23/1000 women aged 15-44 years, constant from '92. Twenty percent of the women were teens, also constant. 99% were by curettage (D&C) and 52% were done in the 1st 8 weeks, 89% in the 1st trimester. Most abortions were for single, young and white women.

MMWR 3/22/96

YOUR CHOICE IN '96?

In a recent interview Senator Robert Dole said unequivocally he would "not permit" a late-term abortion even if the mother's life were in danger, "a position that goes so far as to favor fetal life over a woman's life."

Frank Rich, Columnist, New York Times 3/30/96

ABORTION CLINICS REPORT DROP IN HARASSING INCIDENTS

A survey of 310 clinics found that violence and harassment by antis dropped significantly in first seven months of '96, due, it is thought, to the Federal Freedom of Access Law and the Supreme Court's decision upholding constitutionality of buffer zones around clinics and medical offices.

New York Times 4/4/96

QUOTABLE *"This is not the Soviet Union, where you can keep people out of the contest because you just don't like them, or where party bosses can just tell people who to vote for."* Sen Al D'Amato 1988

NEW VIDEO AVAILABLE FROM CCFC

In "From Danger to Dignity—The Fight for Safe Abortion," an award winning film maker chronicles the history of the abortion rights movement in the US. From the back alley to medically safe, but still embattled clinics, this film includes NYS footage showing the roles of Ithaca Assemblywoman Connie Cook and Auburn's Assemblyman the late George Michaels.

BREAST CANCER AND ABORTION

The 1/24/96 issue of the J. of the AMA reports abortion "may be associated with a slightly increased risk of breast cancer," although there is no difference in risk for women who have had induced rather than spontaneous abortions. The authors note that women with cancer would be more forthcoming with an abortion history than the control group. They suggest the need for studies that do not rely on interviews with the cases and controls.

PILLS MORE AVAILABLE ACROSS THE POND

Although socially sanctioned and readily available in other European countries, ECP's (emergency contraceptive pills- also called "morning after pills") are little known here although experts estimate their use could reduce unplanned pregnancies here by 1.7 million a year.

NOW National Times Jan. 1996

SURVEY SHOWS SLOW DECLINE IN ABORTION

Guttmacher Institute speculates that increased condom use to prevent AIDS, "more favorable attitudes to the pill, and women being more accepting of having children without being married" account for the trend.

New York Times 3/22/96

ABORTION GROUP TO ADVISE DOCTORS ON DRUG USED TO END PREGNANCY

Use of methotrexate in a non-surgical procedure which may be performed in any doctor's office would defuse clinic violence.

New York Times 3/30/96

GLORIA A. FELDT, NEW PLANNED PARENTHOOD HEAD

"I have always seen the abortion issue as being ever so much larger than abortion itself. It's a question of whether women should be equal partners to men, whether you think women are capable of making their own choices about childbearing, and whether you believe in comprehensive sexuality education, or prefer ignorance. From that standpoint, Title X [Federal Family Planning] becomes critical far beyond the money involved."

New York Times 4/9/96

CALENDAR

- May 7, Cortland School Board Election
- May 15, Homer School Board Election
- July 1, Next Newsletter
- Sept 1, Newsletter
- Sept 21, Meet the Candidates Brunch at the Country Club
- Nov 1, Newsletter with Women's Coalition Survey
- Nov 5, State and National Elections

MEDICA



THE LATEST ALL OUT EFFORT

The Catholic Cardinals are pressing the US Senate to override Clinton's veto of the "Partial Birth" bill. Senator Moynihan never voted on the issue initially. Please encourage him to support the President's veto.

Call 1-800-972-3524

E-mail: <http://www.hrcusa.org/actncntr/index.html>

GRACIAS, THANKS AND
MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

ALL OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

**YOU KEEP US GOING
STRONG!**

Newsletter/Membership Form

**NEVER THINK THAT WE ARE TOO SMALL TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE • KEEP INFORMED**

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Contribution: \$50 ___ \$25 ___ \$20 ___ \$10 ___

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

"office use: cb _____ cp _____ tx _____"

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice • P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

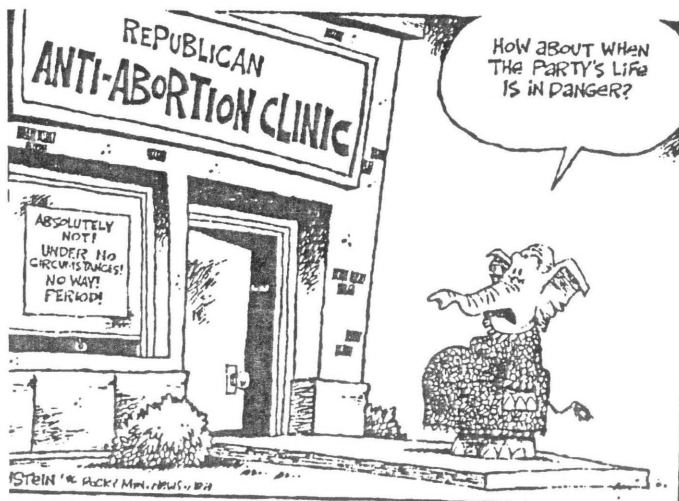
C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

July 1996
Vol. 5, Number 3

DOLE HAS NO CHOICE

Dole fine tunes the Republican abortion policy daily. The tolerance provision migrated from the platform preamble to the actual plank in the first weeks in June. Gary Bauer of the Family Research Council says that Dole's move "snatched defeat from victory". He claims that the Republican Party is pro-life at its grassroots level even though its leaders may not always be. He also says that the party is the majority party because of its position on abortion. 71% of Republicans say that they are pro-choice. Abortion was not the issue in the 1994 election. Pataki was anti choice but ran as the pro-choice candidate. Is Dole moving that way too? What could this mean?

NPR and 6/11/96 Cortland Standard



LATEST POLL ON ABORTION

The Quinnipiac poll conducted in April, '96 with a + or - 4% margin of error says that 88% of New Yorkers support a woman's right to abortion; 10% are entirely against it. That breaks down to 49% who think that it should be generally available and 39% say it should be available but with some restrictions. Only 21% of the Republicans polled said that they want the anti-abortion plank in the Republican platform.

DOLE'S RECORD

NARAL/NY Spring 96 newsletter ACTIVIST says that Dole has an unequivocal anti-choice voting record.

1. Supported Reagan and Bush's Gag Rule (women using federally funded family planning clinics could not be given any information on abortion in any situations of unplanned pregnancies)
2. Opposed Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE). A law that is cited to be responsible for the decrease of clinic bombings and violence this year.
3. Supported the Hyde Amendment which barred medicaid funded abortions.
4. Opposed US military personnel from abortions at military hospitals even if they use their own money.
5. Opposed FOCA—to codify Roe v Wade
6. Opposed public funds for abortions for poor women in Wash, DC.
7. Supported all anti-choice Supreme Court nominees—Thomas included.

According to the Boston Globe 3/26/96 Dole bragged to the Christian Coalition that abortion first became a national issue during his 1974 reelection campaign. It was Dole, losing in the polls by 7-12 points who pressed his opponent during a debate on farm issues. Dr. William Roy, an Ob/GYN had done fewer than a dozen abortions. Dole told the audience that Roy supported abortion on demand. Roy lost by 13,000 votes and was pursued by RTL yelling "baby-killer" during the rest of the campaign. (Ed: Sounds orchestrated to me.)

Of Dole's 113 votes on abortion and reproductive rights during his 28 yr. career, 107 of them were anti-choice. A recent NARAL poll, however, showed that 44% of Americans did not realize his stand.

National NARAL says that Dole has already promised to restrict abortion. He'd ban RU-486, fetal tissue research, which could hold the key to treating many diseases, and ban federal funding for international family planning programs (which obviously would increase abortions).

THE RECORD—104TH CONGRESS

One or both Houses voted to:

- * deny funds to protect women's health clinics;
- * end access to abortion for US Service women overseas;
- * prohibit federal employees from choosing health insurance plans with abortion coverage;
- * prohibit Medicaid coverage for abortions in rape or incest cases;
- * deny access to abortion for women in fed prisons;
- * end US support for international family planning;
- * undermine abortion training for Ob/gyn residents.
- * outlaw life saving abortion technique

ELECTIONS AND ABORTION— THE GENDER GAP RIDES AGAIN

As reported in the US News & World Report 4/22/96, major pressure was brought to bear on Pres. Clinton after he vetoed the ban on "partial birth" abortions. The Vatican, the cardinals, the bishops all voiced immediate dismay. The Pope likened the procedure to infanticide.

Cardinal Hickey of Wash. urged all Americans to remember the veto on election day. In contrast, EMILY'S List, a group that backs pro-choice Democratic women seeking office, released a survey showing that women support Clinton over Dole by 19 points, and that women are more likely to vote this year than in 1994. Also it said that Catholic women heavily favor Clinton.

Dole wishes that the issue would disappear. While three influential governors (Weld, Pataki, and Whitman) are pressing the party to remove their anti-abortion plank, Dole who has been consistently anti-choice, stumbles and mis-states his position.

WOMEN FRUSTRATED BY '96 POLITICS

A USA TODAY (4/96) article by Bob Minzesheimer says that '94 was the year of the angry white male voter and this upcoming election may be determined by women who are frustrated or angered by politics. The angriest may be the counterparts to the males of '94—women who did not go to college, who work blue collar jobs with no health insurance, who unlike welfare moms have no subsidized day care and who are annoyed with the tax breaks for the wealthy.

A quarter of the female voters are considered to be the key swing group for both parties according to Republican pollster, Linda DiVail. She characterizes women as apathetic or unsure of the connection between politics and their lives in this poll done for Ladies Home Journal and the League of Women Voters. Frustrated, disgusted or disillusioned described women's attitudes toward politics. 68% say that the country is on the wrong track. 52% think the gov't can help them. Economic security for the family was cited by 79% of the women as a top factor in selecting a candidate. 50% said that the candidate's abortion position was extremely important. Only 37% said that they usually vote the same way as their husbands. This poll was done Jan 24-29 of 1000 women, 400 of whom were NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE!

PRO-LIFE, PRO-CHOICE: CAN WE TALK

An article in the St. Louis Post Dispatch caught the eye of B.J. Isaacson-Jones, pro-choice leader and administrator of an abortion clinic. The article by pro-life lawyer, Andrew Puzder cited statistics for maternal and child poverty in Missouri and stated that "surely these numbers alone suggest the existence of some common ground between the two sides of the abortion debate....While neither side will concede on the underlying issue, it is difficult to see how either side would hurt its position by jointly seeking legislative aid for impoverished women and their children."

Isaacson-Jones began speaking with Puzder and 5 years later, over 500 people have participated in Common Ground dialogues. People are invited to think as the "opposition" thinks. Often they over characterize their opponents. eg. Pro-choicers think that proliferers are more authoritarian than they are and proliferers underestimated that nearly all the pro-choicers called motherhood a desirable full-time career.

Talk was easy, action for that common ground was not. Issaacson-Jones opened an adoption clinic on site. They were very successful at placing black children with black couples but the families were not always able to pay the fees. The adoption service closed with a large deficit when appeals to both sides were refused.

Those willing to dialogue experienced much criticism from within their ranks for so doing.

Several years ago, CCFC offered the local anti-abortion group an opportunity for dialogue but it was refused.

The Christian Century 1/3/96

SEWARD VOTES FOR "PARTIAL BIRTH" LEGISLATION

On 4/30 by a vote of 39 to 21 the NY Senate passed an extremist bill that would criminalize this D & X (dilation and evacuation) procedure. Senator Seward for the second time in a year joined the ranks of the opposition and supported this bill. PLEASE WRITE TO HIM AND ASK WHY. He has been a wonderful friend of choice in the past and has received awards for this.

This bill would criminalize a rarely used procedure performed in cases of catastrophic pregnancies. Pro-choice Pataki said that he WOULD sign this bill. However, the Assembly most likely will not take up the bill. There were huge amounts of mail generated on this one and it was not from us.

ED Note: the timing and the terminology were very calculated. Partial birth is not a medical term but rather one that the opposition chooses to use for an inflammatory purpose. Of course this is a difficult call for all of us who think and feel.

RECENT HEADLINES

- May 4 Buchanan Pushes Preservation of Anti-Abortion Plank (CS)
- May 8 Dole Says He Has Plan to Win Votes of Women (NYT)
- May 13 Buchanan Says He'll Stay in Party, Back Dole (CS)
- May 13 Pataki Looking to Shore Up Sagging Gender Gap Ratings (CS)
- May 16 Nebraska Bishop Culls Flock The Post Standard
- Jun 8 Buchanan Backs Dole's View on Abortion; Fight Expected (CS)
- June 11 Dole Wants Open Door Statement in Anti Abortion Plank (NPR)

PRESIDENT'S DAY PROTEST OF NEWT GINGRICH'S FUNDRAISER FOR CONGRESSMAN JAMES WALSH AT THE HOTEL SYRACUSE

A sea of yellow and red streamers, arm bands, posters, and huge union banners greeted the busfull of Cortland residents as they arrived at the Plymouth Church in Syracuse on 2/19/96. They traveled to protest House Speaker Newt Gingrich presence at the Hotel Syracuse fundraiser for Congressman James Walsh. For \$1000, supporters could have lunch and a photo opportunity with Newt.

In the church a rabbi, a black clergy, a social worker, and the director of the Salvation Army gave rousing warm-up speeches to an overflow church audience. The woman from the Salvation Army was greeted with great applause when she said that she "is tired of having the religious right claim the moral high ground. All religions have family values," she said. Rabbi Daniel Jezer said that, "\$4.25 is not a living wage and that Newt and Walsh have thrown the workers to the sharks."

One point of high humor came when eight proper ladies with furs, hats and pocketbooks professed their love for Newt and sang that they would follow him anywhere. These were the Ladies against Women (LAW) who did a little spoof on the Anti-ERA rich ladies. Abe Lincoln and Uncle Sam on stilts were there as well.

Off to the Hotel for more street speeches, songs and free food from the soupline. The range of speeches from the flat bed truck matched the diversity of the fifty co-sponsoring organizations, which were dominated by labor unions but included the Sierra Club, the Stonewall Committee, health centers, Adapt, reproductive choice groups, the Green Party, and worker safety, peace, women's, veterans and student groups.

The crowd was peaceful but not quiet. Hundreds of tin cans with coins inside created the percussion section for this rally that attracted approximately 1000 from Ithaca, Cortland, Syracuse and all over Central New York. Three huge 18 wheeler rigs arrived in the midst of the rally and the drivers applied constant pressure to their air horns so that they might be heard inside. It was said that this was in protest of a 10% pay cut for warehouse employees at a well known super market chain which recently reported a good profit.

The Cortland group consisting of students, a clergy, a nurse, teachers, physicians, retired persons and members of the newly formed UNITE, the union of NCC and others felt quite pleased with the demonstration and thought it wonderful in its size and diversity.

RAPE, INCEST, AND HYPOCRISY

(Reprinted from our Nov 1990 newsletter and originally adapted from ProChoice IDEA, V 1, #1 WCLA)

Anti-abortion lawmakers are beginning to "compromise" on the abortion issue by allowing rape and incest exceptions according to RTLers. They say that there "cannot

be compromise here or the entire argument is lost. As soon as you admit that there is even one single baby that may be killed for ANY reason, you have lost the battle."

As soon as the rape or incest option is accepted, their own premise of fetal rights beginning at conception is negated because they have redefined the issue by creating an extraordinary dividing line: women who indulge willingly in sexual activity cannot have abortions; women who have sex unwillingly can.

When "fetal rights" depends on whether a woman enjoyed sexual relations, the issue is not about babies or human life or even abortion. Rather, it is about the public discomfiture and ambivalence toward female sexuality and the female role in society. The rape/incest exclusion is, as the opposition itself recognizes, a ruinous crack in the "abortion is murder" facade. If a fetus isn't a person when a woman is raped, why is it so when she has not been raped?

An absolutist position on abortion is repugnant to most Americans, even those uneasy with abortion. We can never settle for a scenario that allows choice only for rape or incest victims, we must never plea bargain for those exceptions and we must stop ignoring the hypocrisy those exceptions represent.

HOW TO CONTACT THE MEDIA

ABC Audience Services

77 West 66th St.

NY, NY 10023

CBS Audience Services

524 West 57th St. 9th Floor

NY, NY 10019 Tel. 212-975-3166

NBC Audience Services

30 Rockefeller Plaza

NY, NY 10112 Tel. 212-664-2333

FOX Audience Services

205 East 67th St.

NY, NY 10021 Tel. 212-452-3840

BELIEVE IT—

**MOST CHURCH-GOING AMERICANS
BELIEVE A WOMAN SHOULD DECIDE.**

BELIEVE IT—

**PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS BELIEVE
A WOMAN SHOULD DECIDE.**

These are the two ads that the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice are running in various cities. The RCAC national director says that this helps to counter the fact that the media and the public incorrectly believe that most religious people oppose abortion. Unfortunately, most pro-choice religious people don't talk about reproductive choice in their religious institutions and they don't talk religion in their pro-choice groups.

ProChoice IDEA sp/su 1995

MORE ON BREAST CANCER\ABORTION LINK

Legislation is pending in 9 states to mandate informing patients of this "link." In the past 3 years, the Nat'l Cancer Institute, the Amer. College of Ob/GYNs (ACOG), and the Am Cancer Society have all concluded that there is insufficient evidence to support the link. A 2/96 NCI fact sheet says the RTL public information campaign about this link misrepresents the information in the scientific literature. More research is needed to straighten out the conflicting data.

MIFEPRISTONE OR RU486 TO FDA FOR APPROVAL MARCH 96

The abortion pill (RU-486) has been tested on 2100 women at a dozen women's health clinics, Planned Parenthoods and universities around the country.

Methotrexate, already FDA approved, has recently received much press in its "off label" use as another abortion pill. FDA-approved drugs can legally be prescribed for non-approved uses. Repr Freedom News 4/5/96

CALENDAR

- • Sep 1, Next Newsletter
- • Sep 21, Candidate Forum at Country Club
- • Nov 1, Election Newsletter
- • Nov 5, State and National Elections

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

GRACIAS, THANKS AND
MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

ALL OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

YOU KEEP US GOING STRONG!

Newsletter/Membership Form

**NEVER THINK THAT WE ARE TOO SMALL TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE • KEEP INFORMED**

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Contribution: \$50 ___ \$25 ___ \$20 ___ \$10 ___

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

"office use: cb _____ cp _____ tx _____"

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice • P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

ELLEN GOODMAN ON "PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION"

The difference between life and health sounds so simple on paper. But a doctor doesn't always know when the illness of a severe diabetic will become fatal or 'merely' endanger her kidneys. Nor is the moral balance sheet so easy to determine when you must decide to 'save' a doomed baby by a vaginal delivery that could leave the woman infertile. How much risk should a woman endure for how deformed a fetus?

In a now notorious ad, the Nat'l Conference of Catholic Bishops offered a list of reasons why a woman might claim a late term abortion for her 'health'. They include: Won't fit into prom gown. Hates being fat. Had an unhappy childhood.



Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

September 1996
Vol. 5, Number 4

**MEET YOUR CANDIDATES AT THE LEGISLATIVE BRUNCH
CORTLAND COUNTRY CLUB — SATURDAY, SEPT 21 11:00 AM**

WATCH FOR CANDIDATE SURVEY IN NOVEMBER ISSUE

BRUNCH

Meet and greet most of the candidates for state and national offices at an interactive panel discussion 9/21/96 at the Country Club. Tickets are on sale at the YWCA or from members of any of the 5 women's groups that make up the non-partisan Cortland Women's Coalition: ZONTA, AAUW, YWCA Public Affairs Committee, the SUNY Cortland Women's Study Committee and the League of Women Voters.

BAN ON ABORTION FOR CATASTROPHIC PREGNANCIES

This is an election year and the opposing forces have brought out all their big guns. First it was the "partial birth" abortion, a wedge issue designed to splint the pro-choice community and then here was homosexual marriages. Opposition to both issues bring major revenues to the self-righteous right.

Both Houses of Congress passed the bill banning this one particular type of late term abortion—medically called an Intact D and E. Clinton vetoed it because there was no exception for the woman's health. Health exceptions would include carrying the pregnancy to term with the consequence of ruined kidneys, impaired future fertility or obvious mental health consequences to carrying a fetus with no brain for 3 months. There were not enough votes to override the veto. Sen. Moynihan didn't vote on this.

The state Senate passed a bill (39-21) banning the procedure on Right to Life Lobby Day (4/30) with Cortland's usual pro-choice Senator Seward supporting the ban; it came to the Assembly on June 17 attached to the budget bill but it failed to pass.

Assemblyman Luster from the city of Cortland wrote an exceptionally good letter on this subject which states that physicians, not legislators should make this decision. This debate, he says, has been politically inflamed and that the description of the procedure is unnecessarily distorted and exaggerated. "The tragic circumstances of these abortions of

almost always wanted babies should not become sensationalized fodder for those who oppose abortion under all or most circumstances." Women will abort these pregnancies by other procedures; this bill simply sought to criminalize the safest procedure.

Joining the battle to prevent the NYS passage of an unprecedented attack on physicians' judgment and women's health, this bill was opposed by the League of Women Voters and the NY Civil Liberties Union as well as many physicians. Lois Shapiro-Canter of NOW said that every line of this bill is unconstitutional or illegal.

PUTTING A FACE ON A STATISTIC—WOMEN WHO HAVE HAD LATE TERM ABORTIONS FOR CATASTROPHIC PREGNANCIES

1. Mary-Dorothy Line, a registered Republican and practicing Catholic and her husband were informed by their physician that their 1st baby had hydrocephalus, a condition where there is too much fluid within the brain to allow it to develop. They prayed as did their parents and grandparents. Tests were repeated; five specialists were consulted. The Lines were told that there was no hope and abortion was recommended. They had a late term abortion procedure that would have been banned.

She agonized in very private pain when the "partial birth abortion ban came before Congress. She feared what her conservative community would say if she spoke out. The lies and misinformation became too great. She testified that her son was incompatible with life. Her body kept him alive. So she did the kindest thing—she took her son off life support. Mrs. Line says that the way that she ended his short life made it possible for her other babies to be born.

2. Viki Wilson, a nurse, and her husband Bill, a physician, were expecting their 3rd child. Early tests showed a normal pregnancy. In the 8th month, and ultrasound showed that the brain had formed outside of the baby's skull. The couple and their doctor agreed that the pregnancy imperiled Viki's life and health. She had the procedure that would be banned

by the bill Clinton vetoed and that passed the State Senate this year.

3. Coreen Costello was 7 months into a 3rd pregnancy when she learned her baby had a fatal neurological disorder. It had been unable to move in the past 2 months and its head was swollen with fluid and its body was stiff. A conservative Republican and participant in "Walks for Life", Colleen never thought that she would have to make this decision.

The point is that this is a matter between the couple and the physician. This procedure inaccurately termed, "partial birth" abortion is sometimes the safest, most appropriate medical procedure for some women seeking later abortions. These are most often much wanted babies and catastrophic circumstances.

"THOSE WHO SHOULD DENY FREEDOM TO OTHERS DO NOT DESERVE FREEDOM THEMSELVES"
ABE LINCOLN

WHITMAN ON INTACT D & E ABORTION

New Jersey Governor Christie Whitman announced her intentions early. She will not be Dole's running mate. But she remains in the media spotlight (NYT Magazine cover). As the moderate voice of the party, she is sought out for her opinions and likely to be a star at the GOP convention.

According to the 6/19/96 Cortland Standard, Whitman sided with President Clinton's veto on the controversial late-term abortion procedure. She believes that abortion should not be a corner-stone campaign issue, and welcomes Dole's efforts to add a "declaration of tolerance" to the party platform that says those with differing views are welcome.

LIFE DYNAMICS —AT IT AGAIN

This Texas-based group of anti-choicers put out anti-semitic "comic" books to Ob-Gyn med students attempting to dissuade them from providing abortions. Then there was the slick SUE YOUR ABORTION DOC kit and accompanying video for ambulance chasing lawyers. Now they are offering a \$1000 reward for audio tapes from the annual conferences of the National Abortion Federation.

Once, posing as desperate patients, they did phone surveys to determine where non-provider MDs sent abortion-requesting patients.

HOW TO WIN AS A PRO-CHOICE CANDIDATE

This new little booklet is filled with winning tips related to the upcoming election. Want to know what happened to Choice in 1994, for instance? Complacency with a pro-choice White House and Congress combined with the right wing coalition of anti-choice, anti-gov't, anti-taxes, anti-gun control, and pro-term limits elected many anti-choice folks. Most voters did not know their candidates position on choice in '94.

HEY, WE DO HAVE VICTORIES!

The Right To Life party has not successful in endorsing candidates. The anti-choice Senator Pataki turned pro-choice to run for governor in '94 and now he joins several Republican governors to push for tolerance on the platform.

THANKS TO DAN FESSENDEN for voting in favor of Medicaid funding for abortion services.

His # 1-337-2543.

WORDS FROM THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

"Not one pro-life candidate for Congress got defeated in 1994!"

DOLE WALKING THE PLANK

*Ralph Reed says "No way on earth can Dole get elected without the evangelicals and conservatives."

*Majority of voters say "DROP THE PLANK"

*Bay Buchanan (Pat's sister) "No words (of the anti-ab plank) can be changed; we will fight this to the convention, on the floor and to the election." ed note: She got her way.

Five Republican governors say "DROP THE PLANK."

ed. note: The platform also calls for a constitutional amendment to ban abortion and an anti-choice litmus test for the appointing of judges.

RECENT HEADLINES

4/28/96 (HA) POLL: PEOPLE BACK ABORTION ("88% of NYers are in favor of permitting abortions....")

6/17/96 (CS) POLL: MANY 1994 VOTERS FOR GOP CONGRESS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS (they're disenchanted)

6/27/96 (CS) Operation Rescue Founder Urges 'Evil' Gov. Pataki to Repent

7/96 (HERA) Pro Choice Escorts Needed (Randy Terry is using Vestal Clinic as terrorist training ground for his Fancy New Institute members.)

7/2/96 (NPR) Dole may choose a pro-choice VP

7/12 (CS) Assembly Battle is Expected on Late Term Abortion

7/13 (NYT) Under Pressure Dole Reconsiders Plank

7/14/96 (NYT) Abortion Rights League Plans to Challenge

15 Freshmen 7/15 (CS) (Anti) Abortion Protests (in San Diego) May Turn Violent (during the Republican Nat'l Convention)

7/15/96 (CS) State Assembly Battle Over Late Term Ab is Derailed

7/16/96 (CS) Dole Picks Molinari as Convention Keynoter
Ed note: She's a pro choice moderate congresswoman from Staten Island who voted right on 3 key pro choice issues since '92.

7/19/96 MacLaughlin Report Predicts Anti-Choice VEEP selection.

7/24/96 (CS) Right to Life Targets Fessenden Re-election (Len Smith is their candidate.)

MARTIN MACK

JAMES WALSH

Political Party Endorsements	Democrat	Republican, Conservative, Independent, Freedom
Percentage of women on your Executive Committee	No response	40%
1. If additional funding became available which 2 programs affecting women & children would receive your strongest support?	Pre-natal health care and Head Start	No response
2. I support pay equity & comparable worth measures.	Yes	Yes
3. I support a woman's right to choose to have an abortion	Yes	No
4. I support the selective use of RU-486 for abortions	Yes	No response
5. I support Medicaid funding for poor women's abortions	Yes	No
6. I support a) spousal consent for abortion b) 24 hr waiting period for abortion	No No	Yes Yes
6. I support c) parental notification for minors' abortions	It is difficult to legislate communication. Parents may often be the cause of the minor's situation. Presently no notice or consent is required in NY.	Yes
6. I support d) "partial birth" abortion ban	Late term abortions are already illegal in NY. This issue is being used to divide people.	No
7. I support affirmative action	Support Clinton's efforts	No response
8. I support school vouchers for private school tuition	No	Yes
9. I support the ban on assault weapons	Yes	No
10. I support the welfare reform recently signed into law by the President & taking effect 6/97	I support welfare reform but not the President's bill	Yes
11. What % of those affected by this welfare reform are children?	85%	80%
12. What is the average stay on welfare?	Less than 2 years	No response
13. Gay & lesbian citizens should be allowed to serve in the military	I support present policy	No
14. I support a flat tax	No	No
15. I support Medicaid as a block grant	No	Yes
16. I support an increase in the military budget	No	Yes
17. I support a living wage law	Yes	?
18. Whose responsibility is the disposal of radioactive wastes	Those who create the waste should be responsible	Power companies, state and federal govt.
19. What will you do to reform campaign financing	I support a constitutional amendment to reduce campaign spending	Limit contributions to each congressional district

The Cortland Women's Coalition is a non-partisan group including the League of Women Voters, AAUW, YWCA, Zonta, and Women's Studies at SUNY Cortland

CORTLAND WOMEN'S COALITION

Leonard Smith, Fessenden's opponent for Assembly, did not respond to the survey

125th State Assembly District
MARTIN LUSTER

1996 CANDIDATES SURVEY RESPONSES (STATE OFFICES)
WILSON KONE

126 Assembly Dist.
DANIEL FESSENDEN

NYS Senate
JAMES SEWARD

Political Party Endorsements	Democrat, Independence	Republican, Conservative	Republican, Conservative, Freedom	
Percent of women on your Campaign Comm.	66%	50%	No response	70%
1) If additional funding were available which 2 programs affecting women & children would receive your strongest support?	Low income child care subsidies & family planning	Education & medical support for kids	No response	Child care & breast cancer research
2) I support pay equity & comparable worth measures	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3) I support a woman's right to choose to have an abortion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4) I support Medicaid funding for poor women's abortions	Yes	Only for medical necessity, rape & incest	Yes	Yes
5) I support: a. spousal consent for abortion, b. 24 hr waiting period for abortion c. parent notification for minors abortions d. parental consent for minors' abortions e. the "partial birth" abortion ban	a. No b. No c. No d. No e. No	a. Yes b. No c. Yes d. No e. Yes	a. No b. No c. No response d. No e. Yes	a. No b. No c. Yes. The '95 law applies to kids 15 & under. It's far from perfect. I backed it hoping to expedite a more sensible, workable law d. No e. Yes, except in serious, life-threatening medical situation.
6) Despite failure of major health care reform, do you support a state single payer initiative?	Yes	No	No	No. Support changes to make health care & insurance less costly: tort reform reducing dr. & hospital liability; restore sanity to jury awards; regulatory relief to cut paperwork; insurance portability.
7) NYS has one of the worst credit ratings of all states. This is, in part due to a chronically late budget. What will you do to improve the budget process?	Join w/other discontented members to pressure leaders to reform, e.g. use of conference committees. More use of standing committees to draft appropriations; consensus revenue forecasts. In short, end back room dealmaking.	Reform budget process & level of legislative involvement. Vote for new Assembly leadership.	Continue to build coalitions necessary to enact important reforms	I consistently back laws improving process. In '96, for reforms to use conference committees to decide revenues/resolve issues; impose austerity budget 4/1 if no agreement so bills/school aid are paid.
8) Should NYS repeal its constitutional amendment to aid the poor?	No	No	No	No. NY constitution says "Aid, care & support of needy shall be provided by the state...in such manner ... as legislature may... determine." The truly needy must have a safety net. But we need frugality/ integrity in fast growing welfare programs. Real compassion is a job, accountability & responsibility.
9) What is the average stay on welfare in NYS?	2-1/2 yrs	"Average stay" isn't an accurate estimate of amt. of support given. A significant number receive aid for over 2 yrs, but more people get PA for only a month or two. Most seek help to get thru crisis or temporary unemployment.	No response	varies by program
10) I support use of block grants to counties for home care & mental health programs	No	Yes	No response	No
11) I support the environmental bond issue	Yes	Yes	No response	No. I supported bill to put bond on the ballot for voters to make the final decision.
12) What will you do to reform campaign financing?	I've repeatedly voted for reforms i.e. partial public campaign funding. This would help level the playing field for newcomers, reduce or end PACs, limit campaign spending & promote grassroots financing.	Limit funds from outside the district. Require full disclosure of funding sources.	Promote full, computerized financial disclosure & practice grassroots financing	Supported Senate bill increasing participation via easier ballot access, more disclosure, computerize records.
13) Whose responsibility is the disposal of radioactive wastes?	Primary responsibility is that of the generators.	Generators of the waste.	Govt., generators with public participation	Public-private partnership: generators, state & fed. govt. Public has a vital role. Disposal sites must never be in an unwilling community.

7/29/96 34% of GOP Delegation Want to Remove Ab Plank (41% want it to retain and 25% undecided.)

7/31/96 (NPR) Pat Buchanan will endorse Dole if anti-choice VP chosen. (He is miffed at shoddy treatment by Rep. Convention people— not allowed to speak while pro-choicers Molinari and C. Powell are.)

8/3/96 (CS) NY Republicans Push to Remove Anti-Ab Plank

8/7/96 (CS) Manhattan GOP Chair Goodman says: Plank Could Cost Dole Election.

8/7/96 (CS) Abortion Struggle Festers Anew (choice may be in appendix of platform.)

8/7/96 (CS) Senate Nominees (Win Primaries) in KA, MN, and GA Oppose Ab.

MOLINARI-PAXTON

One thing wrong with Dole's choice of Molinari as convention keynoter is that she is married to Congressman Bill Paxton of Buffalo. He was a major keynoter of the statewide Christian Coalition Conference in Syracuse last October. Some Paxton quotes from that occasion—"We need to balance the budget because thou shalt not steal from your children.... Liberals drove God from his rightful place.... The welfare system has rotted our country."

Paxton voted for Title X's Gag rule (tell parents of teens that they have been to a birth control clinic); yes to preventing women on Medicaid from getting abortions with federal funds and no to protection from terrorism at abortion facilities. Molinari voted the exact opposite. Yet they met, fell in love, married and had a baby while both in Congress.

Molinari also happens to have a 93% rating from the Christian Coalition. She voted against homosexuals in the military, against "promoting homosexuality to school children," and to strengthen the family by reforming welfare according to the 1995 CC of NY Legislative Scorecard.

CHRISTIAN COALITION AND DOLE

Their voter's guide shows Dole supports: a flat tax, no federal funding of Planned Parenthood, choice in education (vouchers), no Dept of Ed., the privatization of the Nat'l Endowment of the Arts, and the reversal of "don't ask, don't tell."

FACTS

- * 500,000 cases of AIDS in US since 1981.
- * 1.3 million teens get pregnant each year.
- * Pat Flemming, the Federal Gov'ts AIDS Czar says that a teen is infected with HIV every hour of every day. One quarter of the 40,000-80,000 new HIV cases each year occur in the teen population.
- * UNICEF estimates that 585,000 women die worldwide every year during pregnancy and childbirth. 50,000 girls and women attempt to self abort each day and 75,000 deaths/year result. This relates to a "systematic dearth of support for the health of women...."Center of Reproductive Law and Policy 7/12/96

ABORTION PILL AVAILABLE AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD IN BINGHAMTON

Methotrexate and Cytotec—2 drugs already approved by the FDA for other purposes will be available soon as an abortion pill that can be used in the first 9 weeks according to the 6/96 Chenango Voters for Choice Newsletter.

RU-486 IN U.S. OR NOT?

By Sept, 1996 the FDA says they will release their decision on the use of the French abortion pill in the US.

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

The 6/28/96 hearing of the FDA determined that it is safe and effective to use high doses of oral contraceptives in a post-coital or emergency regimen. It is not good to call this the morning after pill because it can be used up to 72 hours after unprotected intercourse. The regimen reduces the risk of pregnancy by about 75%, that's about 1.7 million unintended pregnancies and 1 million abortions prevented by the wide spread use of emergency contraception.

ed note: We hope the FDA will relabel oral contraceptives for this use. A bit of history from the women's health movement: women pressured for patient information in Rx packages and the Pill was the first to have it.

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE HOTLINE(also known as the morning after pill). 1-800-584-9911

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION 1996

On opening night, Governors Weld and Wilson and Olympia Snowe were jeered and called "libertines" by very angry Right to Life delegates when the three announced the inclusion of abortion rights albeit relegated to the appendix of the platform. They had agreed to give up a floor fight if they could get the "A" word in the appendix.

NPR Morning Edition & All Things Considered
8/13/96

GUESS WHOSE PLATFORM

NO CHOICE, NOT ACCEPTANCE,
NO CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY,
INTOLERANT!

ABORTIONS-USA

1.3 million abortions are done each year. Over a ten year period, that's a lot of probable pro-choice women. At least 1 in 4 will have an abortion in their lifetime. The bulk of abortions are obtained by young, white middle-class women. Teen abortions have recently dropped from 25% to 21 % of all abortions between the years 1987 and 1995 according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

The teen birth rate is up.

Six of 10 women had an abortion because of contraceptive failure. Another study in Family Planning Perspectives says that 50% of college women skip at least 3 pills a month.

ed note: that renders low dose pills pretty ineffective and another method of birth control must be used for the rest of the month.

GUERRILLA GIRLS DEMAND A RETURN TO TRADITIONAL VALUES ON ABORTION

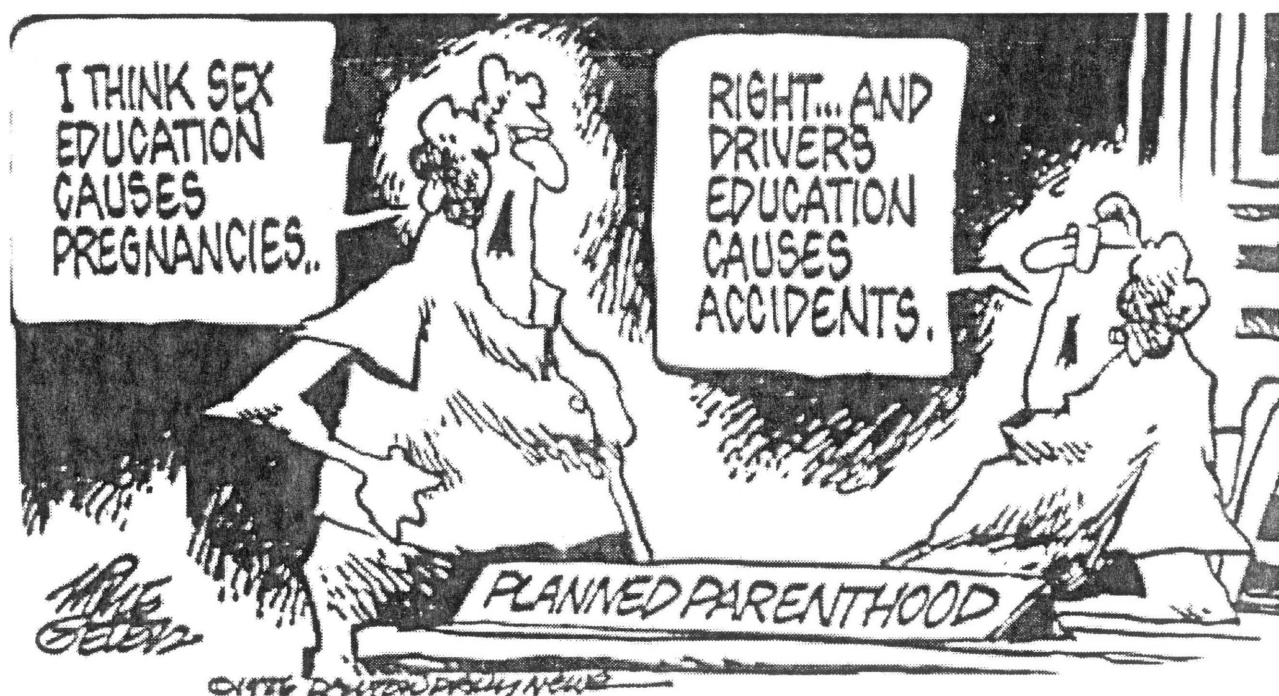
Before the mid 19th century, abortion in the first few months of pregnancy was legal. Even the Catholic Church did not forbid it until 1869.

A Public Service Message from GUERRILLA GIRLS
532 LaGuardia Pl. #237 NY 10012

CALENDAR

- Sept 10 Primary Election
- Sept 21 Women's Coalition "Meet the Candidates" Brunch at Country Club
- Nov 1 Special Election Issue of CCFC newsletter
- Nov 5 Election Day Please Vote
- Jan 1 "Time to Renew" Issue of CCFC Newsletter and Election Analysis
- May 1 School Board Issue and Voter Survey

THANKS TO ALL THE HARDY PARTY PEOPLE WHO DO THE POT LUCK DINNER AND NEWSLETTER MAILING. THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS!



Newsletter/Membership Form

NEVER THINK THAT WE ARE TOO SMALL TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE • KEEP INFORMED

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right. CONTRIBUTIONS TO CCFC ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Signature _____

Contribution: \$50 ___ \$25 ___ \$20 ___ \$10 ___

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

"office use: cb ___ cp ___ tx ___"

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice • P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

Choice

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

November 1996
Vol. 5, Number 5

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

VOTE AND THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Women's Coalition Voter's Guide Enclosed at our Expense

DROP OFF WOMEN VOTERS—

WON'T YOU PLEASE VOTE IN 1996? Women voters who voted in 1992 but stayed home in 1994 constitute the most Democratic group of the '96 electorate according to EMILY's List. The theory is that pro-choice complacency and right wing strategy resulted in the loss of Congress in '94. The anti-choice folks joined forces with other right wing groups including opponents of gun control and taxes. They took advantage of low voter turn out predictions and defeated a pro-choice Congress.

One of six surveys conducted for EMILY confirms other recent polls: There are huge gender gaps among voters choosing between Dems and Repubs in congressional races (19 points) and the presidential race (13 points). Dems have much to gain by wooing the ladies. Specifically, women near retirement are "explosive" about Newt, the Repub. Congress, Social Security and Medicare. Catholic women overwhelmingly favor Clinton and Dems for Congress.

The Christian Coalition is attempting to distribute 50 M voters' guides to churches this Fall and see these women as a possible swing vote, but EMILY says the swing is not evident in their survey. People For the American Way, a liberal lobby group, is warning churches that their tax exempt status is in jeopardy if the distribution is allowed.

In July the Christian Coalition was sued by the Federal Election Committee in that their guides and activities improperly aid Republican candidates.

Emily's List Newsletter & CS 8/23/96

STATES' WRONGS ON ABORTION

Asserting that the "real action on abortion today is not in Washington but in the states," a NYT editorial reveals that the stealth war has made ACCESS "prohibitively daunting for all but a small % of women."

The erosion of a constitutional right comes from 3 interacting causes:

1. Hospital abortions are too costly for most; only clinics in or near major cities can afford to stay in business.

2. Protesters' harassment and violence discourage most MDs who fear risking their practices if they do abortions.

3. "A spate of new state laws" which severely limit conditions for MDs and "block a woman's journey to a big-city clinic."

Eleven states require 2 trips to a clinic due to a 24 hr waiting period. The lag time allows protesters to trace patients' license plate numbers in order to contact families before the abortion takes place. The editorial noted that "one protester takes pride in calling young women's parents to announce that their grandchild is about to be murdered."

Here are the most recent state changes:

- 22 new states introduced bill for mandatory waiting periods in 1995
- 28 states require women under 18 to notify or get consent of one or both parents.
- new laws require MDs who advertise or perform more than 9 ab/month to widen their hallways and hire more staff to meet surgical center requirements.

"Pro-life think tanks are continually drafting proposed new laws, which state legislators introduce around the country"

The trend in states has received little attention because urban middle-class women's access is largely untouched. "Its impact falls on young, poor, rural, or small-town women who lack money and organization to track down an absent parent, get 2 days off from work, find an overnight baby sitter, drive 4 hours to a big-city clinic and pay for a hotelroom. It is these women, of course, whose lives are most limited by unwanted pregnancies."

NYT 9-3-96



FACTS

- 88% of NEW YORKERS ARE PRO-CHOICE (Quinnipiac Poll 4/18/96)
- DOLE'S RECORD ON CHOICE
HE PARTICIPATED IN 113 VOTES AND 107 WERE ANTI CHOICE (95%)
- "the rate of babies being born to black unwed teens—about 80/1000—remained virtually the same from 1920 through 1990." Declining birth rates among married couples have caused the illegitimate births to account for a higher % of the total. according to Michael Lind in his book, Why the Right is Wrong for America.
- MMWR reports in its 5/3/96 Abortion Surveillance of 1992 that the ab to live birth ratio was the lowest recorded since 1977. More pregnant women opted to carry their pregnancies rather than have abortions. The CDC article lists the possible reasons: 1. reduced access 2. changes in contraceptive practices 3. attitudinal changes about unplanned pregnancies 4. and the possibility that the number of unintended pregs have decreased.

BUFFALO PRO-CHOICE NETWORK MAKES HISTORY AS IT IS CATAPULTED TO SUPREME COURT

In March, the Supreme Court agreed to hear Schenk v. Pro-Choice Network of Western NY which was filed by anti-choice American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ). Our readers may recall that we sent our troops to assist the Network in 1992 when Randy Terry attempted to close Buffalo abortion clinics. Also recall Schenk is one of the twin clergy brothers who was responsible for the fetus in Clinton's face in the '92 election campaign.

The case grew out of these clinic-defending days which resulted in a ruling by Judge Arcara that created a safety zone for patients and limited harassment permitted. This ruling is under attack. Send support to the group at: PO Box 461 Buffalo NY 14209.

RECENT HEADLINES

- 9/6/96 CORTLAND STANDARD White Catholics Swing to Democrats
- 9/20 CS FDA Nears approval of Abortion Pill
- 9/20 CS Abortion Issue Moves to Senate After House Vote (overturn of Clinton's Veto of so called Partial Birth Abortion ban)
- 9/26 CS Senate Can't Override Abortion Veto
- 9/27 CS Abortion Issue Moves to New Battleground (the election of new Senators)

82% OF CATHOLICS SUPPORT CHOICE

"Poll after poll shows that most Catholics are pro-choice. As voters, they do not follow the bishops—Catholics make up their own minds."

The following are facts and polls from the Wall Street J./ NBC News, Time/CNN, US News & World

Report, Gallup, and CBS/NYTimes:

- Number of US Catholics _____ 60 million
- % of population _____ 22
- Catholics as % of voters in US House races 1994 _____ 29
- % Catholics supporting ab under some/all circumstances 82
- % " who hold ab as never a morally acceptable choice 13
- % " who vote in good conscience for candidates who support legal abortion _____ 70
- *87% of all Americans support choice.
- *Among Catholics 39% say a woman should be able to get an abortion no matter what the reason.
- *In 1992 84% of Catholics and 84% of Americans were pro-choice.
- *Catholic women are as likely as all other US women to have abortions, and 36% more likely than Protestant women.
- Conscience Summer 1996

HALF OF ALL US WOMEN WILL HAVE ABORTION

So reports Scientific American in its October, 1996, issue. The research results of Alan Guttmacher Institute also states that 60% of the women seeking abortion were using some form of birth control. Catholic women obtain abortions 29% more than Protestant. (ed note: this could relate to the Church's ban on the use of artificial birth control).

CLINTON DESERTS THE POOR WITH WELFARE "REFORM," DESERTS THE UNIONS WITH NAFTA AND GATT, BUT STAYS WITH WOMEN ON CHOICE.

REPUBLICAN ABORTION PLANK—ABORTION TOTALLY BANNED—EVEN TO SAVE THE WOMAN'S LIFE

According to Kelli Conlin, NARAL/NY Exec Dir, the tolerance language essentially said to pro-choice folks that they could vote for Dole and, in exchange, he would ignore the far rights's views on the issue when it came to formulating policy. Dole could not face down the party extremists. The truth is the party ignores its own members and defers to the far right organizations—led by the Christian Coalition—that have become the political muscle of the party.

The CC is targeting the most vulnerable upstate pro-choice assembly members in the hope of gaining the biggest prize in the state—the Assembly.

An Anthony Lewis editorial in the NYT entitled Jefferson's Nightmare" states that the current Republican platform calls for the "harshest position ever on abortion—a constitutional amendment to prohibit all abortions—EVEN TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THE MOTHER....(emphasis added).

He says that the "significance of the Christian conservatives", increasing grip on the Republican Party goes beyond abortion or school prayer....What matters is the rise of a religious-based party, one in which the dominant forces see all issues through the lens of the Bible."

PLANNED PARENTHOOD TO PARTICIPATE IN TEST OF ABORTION DRUGS

As part of the clinical trial approved by the FDA, the agency will test two drugs, methotrexate and misoprostol, for abortions in women no more than 49 days' pregnant. In Europe, RU-486 (mifepristone) has been available for non-surgical abortions since 1988 and much more is known about it. A nonprofit group, the Population Council, is seeking approval of this latter drug. (ed. note: the problem is to find a US manufacturer for RU-486. Anti-choice threats force any company who would do so to do it secretly).

In question is its profitability as well as its liability to litigation-happy opponents. The first 2 drugs are already FDA-approved for other uses and therefore are already manufactured here).

NYT 9/12/96

US AID TO WORLD BIRTH CONTROL EFFORTS FACES CUTS

Congressional Republicans have thus far succeeded in blocking the entire \$12 billion foreign aid bill. Opposition by House leadership, pressed by the National Right To Life, The Christian Coalition and others, aims to eliminate aid to private international family planning organizations that use their own funds to either provide abortions in developing countries or counsel women on the option of abortion.

"The Guttmacher Institute...estimates that the 35% reduction in American family planning contributions would lead to about FOUR MILLION MORE UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES WORLDWIDE, (emphasis added) and about 1.6 million more abortions."

NYT 9/12/96

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions __\$50 __\$25 __\$20 __\$10 __Other

"office use: cb _____ cp _____ tx _____"

REFRAME THE ISSUE OF "PARTIAL BIRTH"

Why do we even accept the wording? The issue is CATASTROPHIC PREGNANCY. The issue here is that these pregnancies are, for the most part, very wanted pregnancies. The issue here is that for some women this IS the safest way to deal with a fetus that is dying. Extremists are playing politics with women's lives and their fertility. When pregnancies go horribly wrong or women's health is in jeopardy, they must have safe alternatives.

What was the alternative for Vikki Stella of Naperville Ill.? A mother of two daughters, Vikki and her husband discovered at 36 wks of pregnancy that multiple, devastating anomalies afflicted their long awaited son—anomalies that were incompatible with life. They made "the most loving decision they could make" to terminate the pregnancy. A C-section or induced labor would have been particularly difficult for Vikki because she was a diabetic. She has since given birth to a healthy son.

Or what were the alternatives for Claudia Ades or Tammy Watts or Mary-Dorothy Line? Their pregnancies had gone horribly wrong. The major organs of the fetus failed to develop or the fetus had Trisomy 13 or anencephalias. These real women had a choice—carry to term a dead, dying or deteriorating fetus and face the high risk of infection, the loss of fertility or even death OR have the safest abortion procedure available to them. They chose the latter.

If abortionists are aborting 3rd trimester healthy fetuses from healthy moms as the anti-choicers claim, then, that is mal-practice and should be reported to the police as well.

FROM THE NYS CHRISTIAN COALITION..

Every church needs to have a contact person that we can give information to about issues and elections, including voters guides."

THANKS ETC. TO:

THE FUNNERS AT THE POT LUCK PARTIES
THOSE WHO TOOK ON NEW TASKS
PAT FOR FINE ARTICLES
ELLEN FOR THE YEOMAN TASK of NEWSLETTER
DISTRIBUTION
DOUG FOR FINE LAYOUT
ALL OUR READERS AND SUPPORTERS
ALL THE FINE WORK DONE BY FPA FOR 20 YEARS

CALENDAR

- Nov 5 Election Day Please Vote 6am - 9pm
- Jan 1 "Time to Renew" Issue of CCFC Newsletter and Election Analysis
- Jan 21-22 Annual Conference and 20th Anniversary of Family Planning Advocates in Albany
- Jan 22 Roe v Wade Anniversary
- May 1 Board of Education Election Poll of Candidates

The Truth Squad

If you think the candidates are really the same, look again

COMPILED BY PAMELA GREEN

ISSUE	BILL CLINTON	BOB DOLE
Abortion	Wants it legal and available.	Wants it criminalized.
Affirmative action	Supports affirmative action for all qualifying groups.	Sponsored a bill to completely eliminate all affirmative action programs.
Breast cancer funding	Nearly doubled funding for breast cancer research during his term.	Refused to sign a 1994 bipartisan Senate letter of support for increasing research funding.
Earned Income Tax Credit	Supports the credit, which is mostly claimed by women, including single mothers.	Supported cutting EITC by \$32 billion while giving tax breaks to those with six-figure incomes.
Family and Medical Leave Act	Signed the act, which allows workers to take up to 12 weeks off to care for family members.	Opposed the act, saying it is "Washington telling you what you have to do."
Job discrimination against lesbians and gays	Endorsed the Employment Nondiscrimination Act.	Opposed "the special-interest gay agenda." (His voting record earned a 100% rating from the antigay Christian Coalition.)
Medicaid cuts	Opposed cuts and opposed the lowering of standards in nursing homes.	Supported a \$163 million cut in funding and backed a proposal to eliminate federal quality standards for nursing homes.
Military budget	Proposed a \$100 million reduction in military funding from his 1996 to his 1997 budget.	Supported a \$7 billion addition to Clinton's 1996 defense budget.
Minimum wage	Supports an increase from \$4.25 to \$5.15 per hour.	Opposes the increase (58% of those who would benefit from it are women).
National Endowment for the Arts	Proposed full funding for the NEA without censorship.	Voted to cut funding, saying he knew the difference between "the artistic and the obscene, between Michelangelo and Mapplethorpe."
Student loans	Vetoed cuts in the student loan program and worked to maintain the Direct Student Loan Program, which makes loans more accessible.	Does not support the Direct Student Loan Program, and wants to shift costs of loan funding to private-sector lenders.
Violence Against Women Act	Supported the act.	Proposed a 43% reduction in funds for the act.

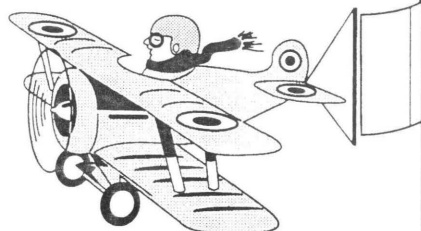
Choice

Cortland, NY 13045

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

January 1997
Vol.6, Number 1

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER



JANUARY IS ANNUAL RENEWAL MONTH

**SEND MONEY—PLEASE
THIS IS OUR ONLY APPEAL. WE NEED YOUR
SUPPORT IN 1997 BECAUSE WE'RE GOOD.
HERE'S PROOF:**

•“YOU'RE THE BEST LITTLE NEWSLETTER. I COUNT YOU
AMONG MY MUST READS.” *BUFFALO SUPPORTER*

•“I WISH OTHER COUNTIES DID THE WORK THAT YOU
DO AT ELECTION TIME. YOUR SURVEYS WERE A GREAT
HELP IN MAKING FUNDING DECISIONS.”

NYS PAC DIRECTOR

•“YOUR NEWSLETTER IS CONCISE BUT THOROUGH—
KEEP IT UP.”

YOUNG SUPPORTER AND FORMER CORTLAND RESIDENT

•“OUR COUNTY SHOULD BE AS ACTIVE.” *TOMPKINS
RESIDENT*

ELECTION ANALYSIS PRESIDENCY

The electorate did something they never did before—
elected a Dem. President and a
Rep. Congress. Clinton is the 1st
pro-choice president to win a second term since Roe v Wade
(’73). Dole did not bring up abortion, so neither did Bill.
What does this mean?

Fewer than half of all Americans turned out to vote—
another first in American history. The popular vote of 49%
to 41% two months after his “partial birth” veto is a re-
minder to his administration and to elected officials that a
consistent defense of the right to choose is, if anything, an
asset, according to the Repro. Freedom News of Nov. 8.
Choice is actually one of the only issues to which Clinton
has held firmly.



With a stroke of his pen in Jan of 1993 Clinton undid 5
anti-abortion roadblocks including the “gag rule” (no ab info
to women who attend federally supported family planning
clinics even in cases of life-threatening pregnancies) and
funding restrictions for international family planning. There
has also been increased security provided to clinics that
provide abs.(FACE—Freedom of Access to Clinics act—see
article below for impact.) For instance, Janet Reno sent
Federal Marshals to the Jacobus Center within 2 weeks of
the Salvi murders in Brookline, MA to instruct the staff on
bomb detection and security.

Clinton has appointed federal judges who have upheld
FACE. Rehnquist, O'Connor and Stevens are considered
likely to retire soon.

However the 104th congress passed, and Clinton did
not veto, the following:

- * no ab in federal employees health insurance
- * no research on embryos
- * huge cut in international family planning grants
- * no abs at military hospitals even with private funds

In Cortland, Clinton got 47% to Dole's 39%; Perot took 13%.

U.S. SENATE

Twelve senators retired leaving open seats, and the
incumbency benefit ruled in most of the other races. The
House now has 2 more Republicans.

	104th	105th
PROCHOICE	39	35
ANTI	44	51
MIXED	17	14

This new senate is CONSERVATIVE-no more a moderating
influence.

HOUSE

	104th	105th
PROCHOICE	154	169
ANTI	226	219
MIXED	55	44

Please Renew -- We Need You!

Republicans lost 8 seats in the House of Representatives in 1996. Robert Dornan, one of the most anti choice people in Congress lost his seat to pro-choice Hispanic, Loretta Sanchez. Late results not included here.

NY ASSEMBLY

An overall gain of one pro-choice seat here. Fessenden survived a weak challenge from Right to Life Len Smith. He has been mostly* (see "Assembly Rejects..." article below) a friend of choice. Dependable Marty Luster also won easily against anti-choice Wil Kone. Luster did win Cortland, unlike 1994.

NY SENATE

2 new pro-choice seats here. Unchallenged Seward won. He is waffling a bit in his commitment to choice. With the catastrophic preg bill he voted for the ban, even though he had said that he would hold out for the inclusion of the wording "To protect the mother's life or health."

Only 3 seats changed parties in the Assembly and Senate which is amazing in light of the fact that the Repubs in the Senate raised 4Xs as much \$ as the Dems according to Lise and Dave of Inside Albany. For the Assembly it was 2-3Xs as much.

OUR U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RACE

This was a heart breaker. Anti-choice Jim Walsh held his seat against our own former mayor, pro-choice Marty Mack.

BOTTOM LINE

THERE WERE NO FEDERAL OR STATE LEGISLATORS WHO VOTED PRO-CHOICE ON THE LATE TERM ISSUE, WHO WERE DEFEATED.

GENDER GAP HERE TO STAY — WOMEN MADE THE DIFFERENCE

Excerpts from EMILY'S LIST—

Pro-choice Democratic women won 9 seats in the House and a 6th seat in the Senate. Every pro-choice incumbent woman in a House race won.

Women voters made history. They were 52% of the electorate and THEY ELECTED THE PRESIDENT. They voted 53-37% for Clinton according to exit polls. They provided Clinton with his margin of victory. This was the largest ever gender gap—17%. Women identified issues were educ., crime and drugs. Men cited deficit and taxes. Dole-supporting women were evangelicals, homemakers, married mothers, and southern white women. 91% of the women who were drop-out voters in '94 came back in '96 — 60% voting for Clinton.

The majority of men DID NOT vote for Clinton. Men are from Mars — Republicans. Women are Democrats. Men did reelect a Republican Congress by a 19% gender

gap. But Rep majority dropped from 19 seats to 11 in the House.

In New Hampshire, we have the nation's only female, prochoice, Democratic governor, Jeanne Shaheen.

EMILY rightfully takes credit for raising money, building strong campaigns for Dem Women and mobilizing women voters on election day. (It wasn't just angry white men in '94 — 16 M women stayed home.) Emily's members raised \$6.6 million for '96 candidates, making it the top contributor to federal candidates. \$3 million was raised to get women out to vote.

MR PRO CHOICE

Geo Pataki's popularity is increasing. Seen as moving to the center, his approval rating is up to 50% according to PBS' Inside Albany. Supposedly in the mode of Govs. Weld and Whitman, George is being seen as pro-choice, pro-environment and fiscally conservative. Of course, Geo has never voted pro-choice in his entire career. His budget proposed a cut in family planning funds and he supports every proposed legislative restriction to abortion. Who defines prochoice?

JOHN SALVI COMMITS SUICIDE

Nearly 2 years after killing 2 clinic workers and wounding 5 others, Salvi, took his own life in his jail cell. He had been denied an appeal after being sentenced to 2 life sentences.

BUFFALO PROTESTORS STOOP TO NEW LOWS

On 10/26/96 in front of the abortion clinic on Main St. in Buffalo, 4 women protesters offered balloon-festooned baby strollers to women entering the clinic for abortion services.

Speakout V7#5

FAMILY PLANNING ADVOCATES (FPA) CELEBRATE 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The key reason why NY leads the country in reproductive rights and family planning funding is the diligence of a group of people who never let down their guard. NY is one of few states that provides Medicaid funding for poor women's abortions and does not have parental consent or 24 hour waiting periods which hamper access particularly for low income women. This group always needs our financial support to continue its work. Their address is 17 Elk St Albany NY 12207-1002.

We can't drop the ball now. The 104th Congress threatened access to abortion rights more than any other—with 62 anti-choice bills brought to a vote. Anti-choicers remain entrenched as evidenced above. Grass roots diligence is so necessary.

Many Cortland folks attended FPA annual conference on Jan 21 and 22 to honor our past achievements.

MONEY RULES THE ELECTION

DEM BACKERS: AFL-CIO-\$67M; Sierra Club-\$7.5M

GOP BACKERS: NRA-\$3.3M; Right To Life-\$1.2 M;

*Business-\$41M.

*This \$41M is only the amount contributed to party and candidates; other figures show total \$ raised. As of this date, Repubs were beating the Dems 3 to 2 in fundraising.

US News & World Rpt 10/28/96

RECENT HEADLINES

10/10/96 CS "3 With White Supremacist Ties Charged with [Planned Parenthood] Bombings"

10/23/96 CS "Anti-Abortion Protesters Get Jail Time Off, Again" ('92 arrestees in Buffalo claim Judge's wife/daughter are choice activists.) Update: On Nov 20 they began serving their terms.

10/23/96 CS "Graphic Abortion Photos Greet Morning Commuters" (4'x 8' posters on tour, compliments of Operation Rescue.)

10/25/96 CS (Christian Coalition)"Voter Guides Could Cost Churches Tax-Exempt Status" (if distributed at church.)

10/19/96 CS "Women Opt for Abortion Pill Instead of Surgery"

10/28/96 CS "Woman Faces Trial for Taking Teen to NY for Abortion" (Parental consent laws in PA.)

10/31/96 NYT "Woman Who Took Girl for Ab Guilty in Custody Case"

11/8/96 NYT "The troubles of RU-486"(legal and management snags)

11/11/96 CS "In Presidential Race, Gender Gap Varied Widely Among States"

12/13/96 CS "Silver to Allow Vote on Abortion Bill" ("Partial Birth" is back in Special session)

12/18/96 CS "Teens Plead Innocent in Infant Death Case"

12/18/96 CS "Late Term Ab Opponents Fail to Force Assembly Vote"

12/19/96 CS "Close Vote (15 vote margin)in Assembly Worries Ab Rts Advocates"

1/5/97 NYT "Abortion Rate In '94 Hit 20-Year Low"

CHRISTIAN COALITION VOTING GUIDE NOT DISTRIBUTED IN CHURCH

been successful in securing over 30 pro-life votes this year ('96)." *Nat'l Rep. Chair Haley Barbour "there will be a fair and open debate on every issue at the convention."

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE RADICAL RELIGIOUS RIGHT?

As reported in The Christian Century (6/21/95) the Maston Colloquium lists 5 wrongs:

1. "It threatens our personal liberties through gov't intrusion into our most intimate religious experience, family life and health decisions;
2. distorts the gospel by identifying the cause of Jesus with their own narrow political agenda;
3. undermines the political process by attempting to merge church and state;
4. abuses the powers of gov't and perverts the soul of the church to force their oppressive religious dogma on all Americans and
5. stifles free and robust public discussion of political issues through arrogant intimidation that claims the exclusive right to speak to God."

RECOMMENDED READING

THE FOURTH PROCEDURE By Stanley Pottinger

PRO-CHOICE AGENDA FOR 1997

Increase Title X (family planning) funding

FDA approval of RU 486

Ward off anti-choice legislation

Grass roots organizing

Educating the public

Preserving choice in the courts

Elect pro-choice candidates

MORE THAN JUST THE MORNING AFTER— MORNING AFTER PILL GOOD FOR 72 HOURS AFTER

Called "emergency contraception," this method is now making its way into use at doctors' offices, college health services and clinics everywhere now that the FDA approved the use. This larger dose of birth control pills has been one of the best kept secrets of all time.

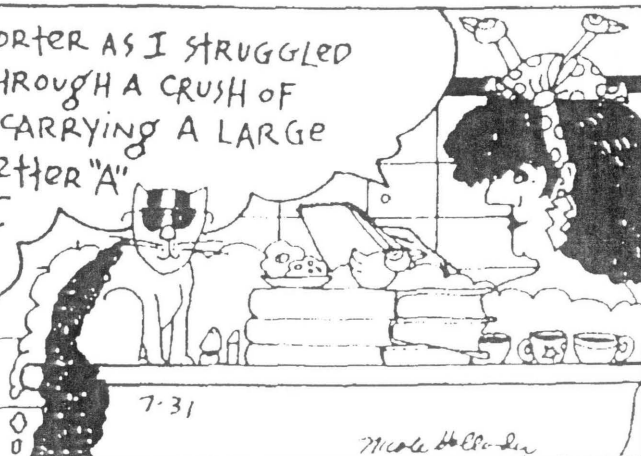
BIG STUDY FINDS NO LINK IN ABORTION AND CANCER

A Danish study of more than 1.5 M women found no overall increased risk of breast cancer among those who had had induced abortions. Published in The New England J. of Medicine (1/9/96), the study is "far larger, more comprehensive and based on more reliable data than any investigation conducted in the United States." Even women who had had 2 or more abs were no more "likely than those who never had an abortion to develop breast cancer later." Previous studies, including those done in the US, relied on reporting by women with breast cancer and healthy women. All these studies were proven unreliable in research showing that

the Sylvia School
of Writing
Bonus Phrase:
"UNDUE BURDEN"
Students, please
use the bonus
phrase in
completing this
narrative.

Copyright © Nicole Heller-Dun

"Heck," I said to the reporter as I struggled toward the clinic door through a crush of jeering lunatics while carrying a large battery-powered neon letter "A" strapped to my back, "I don't mind the sign... I just wish I didn't have to do it blindfolded."



women with breast cancer were 50% more likely than healthy women to disclose a prior ab. The Danish study which was based solely on analyses of medical records thus avoided the reporting bias of all previous research.

FACE—HOPEFULLY HERE TO STAY

For a 3rd time the Supreme Court refused to hear a challenge (Skott v. U.S.) to the 1994 Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE). Six antis arrested for blocking a Milwaukee clinic won dismissal of charges in a U.S. District Court only to have them overturned by a US court of Appeals. High court allowed overturn to stand.

This law makes it a federal crime to use or attempt to use force, threat of force, or physical obstruction to injure, intimidate, or interfere with repro health care providers or their patients.

FACE—IS IT WORKING?

	1993	1996	Decrease
All Violent\disruptive incidents	3,429	452	87%
Blockades	66	3	95
Picketing	2,279	363	84
Murder	1	0	100
Attempt Bomb\Arson	7	0	100
Stalking	188	9	95

Source: Cong.Charles Schumer

CALENDAR

- April - Mailing party/pot luck/FUN-March
- May - Newsletter-School Board election poll of candidates
- November Newsletter with local election poll of candidates

GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

- Julie for arranging the pot lucks;
- Our hostesses' conviviality;
- Our workers good work;
- Alice, our youngest member, for keeping us enthralled;
- Sheila, Ellen, and Julie for distribution;
- Pat and Ruth for contributions;
- ALL THE GOOD COOKS
- THE NEW POT LUCKERS
- SOMETIMES US OLD ONES GET BURNED OUT;
- ALL THE GENEROUS \$\$ CONTRIBUTORS, PRESENT AND FUTURE -- THAT'S YOU.

RENEW

CHOICE

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

May 1997
Vol. 6, Number 2

VOTE IN THE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

CHURCH, STATE AND THE '96 ELECTION

Retired Archbishop Philip of Louisiana warned Catholic voters that votes for Democratic Senate candidate Mary Landrieu or Bill Clinton were sins and he declared this the belief of his Church. The current Archbishop distanced himself when the issue of tax exemption was raised. Landrieu won and Clinton took Louisiana's 8 electoral votes.

During the last election Catholic hierarchy used their political clout against prochoice candidates with; a high-profile letter from US cardinals to Clinton, statements from the Nat'l. Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), and a grass roots campaign to send 27 million anti-choice postcards to members of Congress.

The bishops' political actions are rooted in a 1975 plan organizing anti-abortion activities in each parish, diocese, and congressional district.

In 1980 a coalition of clergy and pro-choice groups filed suit to force the IRS to revoke tax-exempt status of the US Catholic Conference and other Catholic groups because of this political activity. For 10 years, the case was in the courts and the bishops were cautious except for 1984 when Cardinal John O'Connor assailed the pro-choice Catholic VP candidate Geraldine Ferraro.

By 1989 it was clear that the lawsuit would be dismissed. The Supreme Court had upheld state laws (Webster decision) restricting abortion. The bishops became bolder and adopted a "Resolution on Abortion," exhorting Catholics to work to change abortion laws.

Below, some examples of bishops' political actions:

11/15/89 San Diego, CA: Three weeks before a run-off, Bishop Maher prohibits pro-choice Catholic candidate Lucy Killea from receiving communion. But Killea goes on to victory.

11/23/90 NY: Aux. Bishop Austin Vaughan proclaims that Gov. Cuomo is in "serious risk of going to hell" for his prochoice views. He calls Cuomo a "Sunday Catholic" and compares him to a "Nazi soldier....(who) may have objected to the Holocaust but nonetheless supported Germany's right to murder six million innocent Jews."

3/20/90 Wash., DC: Chicago Cardinal Joseph Bernardin asserts that "a public figure who is personally opposed to abortion but not publicly opposed...is an unacceptable fulfillment of a public role."

3/27/90 Yonkers, NY: The pastor of St. Ann's Church prohibits school children from meeting with State Sen. Nicholas Spano because of Spano's conversion to pro-choice views.

4/4/90 Washington, DC: The NCCB announces a 5-year, \$5 million media campaign to end legal abortion. They contract a Madison Ave. PR and a polling firm. The Knights of Columbus contribute \$3M toward the campaign. Remember "Life What a Beautiful Choice"

6/2/90 Peoria, IL: Bishop Myers' says "it is immoral for church members to vote for candidates favoring abortion."

Source: www.catholicvoter.org

In Cortland in 1993, recall the last minute withdrawal of a Catholic Charities civic leadership award to Holly Greer, former Director of the YWCA. This resulted from an appeal to the Syracuse Bishop from some Cortland Citizens for Life because Holly had joined 100s of Cortland citizens in signing 1981 and 1990 pro choice newspaper ads.

This March, the Catholic Conference lobbied Albany promising 1200 people but showing up with half the number. Family Planning Advocates brought 1200 people to Albany in January. One of the agenda items during the Catholic lobby was to have Catholic pharmacists not have to dispense birth control pills.

BUFFALO CASE HEARD IN SUPREME COURT OCT 16

Lucinda Finley writes a moving account of her appearance before the Court in Buffalo's pro-choice newsletter, Nov-Dec 96 Speakout V7#5. Here are some high points:

"Our local struggle in Western NY to protect patients and staff at ab clinics from blocking, intimidation and harassment had become a national fulcrum for the debate. The SC's decision for our injunction would determine throughout the country how much safe space women are entitled to, or whether protestors have a right to stay in

someone's face no matter how much their targets beg to be left alone. The issue...is whether abs can be provided in the sane and calm atmosphere of other surgical procedures, or whether in the name of free speech people have to endure harassment for seeking or providing legal medical care."

Pros and antis had stood in line over night to gain access to one of the 50 visitor seats. Antis outnumbered the pros. Pat Robertson himself was in the courtroom audience, showing how important this case is to the Christian Coalition. Finley had scoped out the courtroom the day before and found that the distance between the Justices and the presenting lawyers was exactly 15 ft—the exact separation space requested in the injunction. In a "delicious moment of irony," their lawyer, Jay Sekulow whose "voice rose with fervor" as he presented was reprimanded by the Chief Justice who "wincing and told him rather sharply to stop yelling at them.... From 15 ft away, the Justices did not appreciate being addressed in an unduly loud voice!" Sekulow "...explained that they had to make people read from the Bible, and you can't read the fine print from 15 ft away."

The Solicitor General himself (3rd highest official in the Justice Dept) presented a US filed brief in support of our side.

Finley, using another opinion emphasized medical safety as an impt enough govt interest to justify some restrictions in a health care setting. In fact she noted that polling places have 100 ft protest-free buffer zones.

In the closing argument, Justice Scalia opined, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me, isn't that what the 1st amendment means?" Breyer snapped right back "not when the words are delivered in your face; they are a stick or a stone."

CORTLAND HAS CONNECTION TO THE CASE: Numerous pro-choice locals follow this case because of their involvement as clinic defenders in Buffalo in 1992. The case arose from these 2 weeks of intensive ("Spring of Life") demonstrations where 615 people were arrested.

MIXED OUTCOME—SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS FIXED AND STRIKES DOWN FLOATING BUFFER ZONE

On Feb 19 the High Court held (6 to 3) that the 15 ft buffer zone from the doors of abortion clinics was constitutional. It shot down (8 to 1) the 15 ft bubble which had protected patients and staff as they left their car or came from the bus stop on their way to the clinic. On the basis of free speech, the ruling allowed the protesters to confront people on their way even if those people did not want to be "talked" to. Rehnquist discounted "any generalized right to be left alone on...the sidewalk"

Free speech or patient harassment? One third of the 900 abortion clinics have laws or injunctions that give patients buffer, but not bubble, zones. This decision upheld this right.

AND TO OUR SOUTH

When the Southern Tier Women's Service (STWS) was in the Binghamton Plaza, the Crisis Pregnancy Center (a fake Clinic) opened up the street, confusing patients and, in one case, kidnapping a teenager and holding her there. When STWS moved to Rano Blvd in Vestal, the antis were right behind them; the All Women's Help Center moved in directly across the street.

Now the STWC has moved to the Four Corners area of Vestal and the All Women's Help Center just arrived, sharing the same parking lot!

They're parasites," says Peg Johnston, director of STWS, "and they deliberately spread misinformation, lies, and try to impersonate us." Although STWC staff give careful directions to patients and warn them of the fake clinic, patients have wandered in and been told, "We don't do the abortions here, but you're required to have counseling first, which we can do." Another patient who was seeking a pap test and birth control was told, "They (STWC) will deliberately give you low dose pills so that you will get pregnant and need an abortion."

Ed note: Virtually all birth control pills are low dose for the patients safety—they are 98% effective. All clinics that provide abortions, provide counseling. Last year antis mistakenly bombed a fake clinic because it appeared to be an abortion clinic.

Hera, Binghamton's Women's Newspaper

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING

There are difficult times ahead. This is the first time since Roe v Wade, that Congress is solidly anti-choice. However, the first votes testing choice turned out positively. They did "get it" with regard to international family planning funding. In Feb the House voted to release \$215 M. Yes Virginia, family planning does prevent the need for abortion.

Our Congressman Jim WALSH VOTED AGAINST funding.

WELFARE REFORM AND FAMILY PLANNING

Click! Here is another place for the politicians to get it. Poor women and teens must have the opportunity to plan pregnancies, finish school and achieve economic self-sufficiency. Prevention works. Currently 700,000 uninsured teens and low income women lack access to fp info and services. Assemblyman Dan Fessenden has included \$20 M (in federal welfare funds) for pregnancy prevention in Republican proposal. The Dems appear to have done the same. Oops, the Fessenden bill excludes the discussion or promotion of birth control or abortion.

THE OLDEST TRADITION: JUDGING WOMEN

"The Scribes and the pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such. What do you say about her?"...He stood up and said to them, "Let he who is without sin among you be the first to

A non-partisan organization composed of:

American Association of University Women • League of Women Voters
SUNY Women's Studies Committee • YWCA • ZONTA

CANDIDATE RESPONSES: 1997 HOMER SCHOOL BOARD SURVEY

Six candidates are running for 4 positions. Vote for 1, 2, 3, or 4 people.

CANDIDATE GEORGE LOTT DID NOT RESPOND TO THIS SURVEY

* = incumbent	* MICHAEL BRADY	PAUL DRIES	* KEVIN McMAHON	JENNIFER RICCIARDI	* ANN SIEGEL
1) Most important goal for school district?	To develop policies that ensure our children's education continues at the highest standards we all expect from our district.	To ensure the best education for our community.	To ensure the best education for our children.	To maintain a high quality education while remaining within budget.	To create stronger, more diversified academic programs that encourage all children to achieve their maximum potential. To incorporate updated technology & community resources to achieve this goal.
2) What's your view on school vouchers that let parents send kids to public, private or parochial schools?	I don't support vouchers. Our public schools best reflect the community's responsibility to educate its children.	At this time I am neutral.	The system we now have makes the most sense to me.	Vouchers would take away from public education because enrollment would decrease and programs would be cut.	I'd like to see money stay in public ed. but our district must try to be strongly competitive with other educational options in order to deserve community financial support.
3) What is a Board member's role & responsibility in the effective administration of schools?	Bd. members develop a philosophy of education, formulate policy to be used as guidelines for school operation, and hire the best teachers available.	To make sure guidelines set by the state and board are followed.	Establish policies for the school district & enforce them; work with the public & school administrators to establish a proper educational system.	Overseeing the curriculum, budget, receive input from teachers, etc.	Bd. members are ultimately responsible for the way a district runs its schools. They must be well informed on all aspects of operation & make well thought out personnel, fiscal & programming decisions.
4) As individuals, kids may pray in school. Should this be expanded in any way?	No. The opportunity to pray is there. I don't see a need to force prayer upon the child.	No. Students should be given the option to pray.	No. Children are in public schools for an academic education. Spiritual & religious ed. should be handled by churches/families.	No. I believe in separation between church and state.	No. Given the diversity of religious beliefs in America today, public ed. must be respectful of those differences.
5) 24% of Cty. 8th graders say they were sexually active last yr. Do you favor age appropriate sex. ed. including instruction on birth control in schools?	Yes.	Yes.	Yes, providing it meets individual parental approval.	Yes, this will prevent teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.	Yes. If individual parents object to curriculum, special arrangements can be made for their kids.
6) Should creationism be taught as an alternative to evolution?	Students are excused from class when materials conflict with their relig. beliefs. Alternate material is used.	Yes. Students should be exposed to all options.	No. This area needs to be dealt with in the home & church environment.	No. This doesn't belong in public school, only in parochial, church/synagogue or at home.	No. Only as part of a class comparing world religions. It shouldn't be part of science classes.
7) How should parent requests to censor books be handled?	Parents should be directed first to the child's teacher. If not satisfied then to principal, supt., and finally, school bd. Alternate materials can be substituted too!	Parents could request alternative books for required assignments if they do not approve.	They should present requests to school administrators of that particular bldg.	Requests should be handled by whoever determines the curriculum.	On an individual basis. I don't believe in censorship, but there may be cases where a book isn't suitable for a certain age group or an individual child.
8) What is the most pressing problem in your school right now.	The severe space shortage.	Drug abuse.	Available classroom space.	The classes are too large.	Having to prepare all students for Regents diplomas. This creates new challenges for students, faculty & community. We must meet the challenges cooperatively & thoughtfully.
9) Do you favor school uniforms?	A good idea worth more study.	No. I favor a dress code.	Not in our school system.	No.	Right now I see no problem that would make me advocate uniforms.

The Women's Coalition

VOTE MAY 6TH

A non-partisan organization composed of:

American Association of University Women • League of Women Voters
SUNY Women's Studies Committee • YWCA • ZONTA

Candidate Responses: Cortland School Board Survey - 4/97

There are 2 open positions. You may vote for 1 or 2 of the 3 candidates running.
FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR, VOTE FOR THE SCHOOL BUDGET ALSO!

* = incumbent	BRENDA WHITMARSH	RICHARD PEAGLER	* DAVID GUIDO
1) Most important goal for school district?	To be sure the children get the best education.	I would like to promote better communication and consistent decisions as they relate to school personnel and citizens.	To continue to make the Board a proactive group and to ensure a first rate education for all students, computer literate. To be consulted, not informed.
2) What is your position on school vouchers that let parents send kids to public, private or parochial schools?	I'm not sure.	I would revisit the notion of vouchers as they chip away at the public school tax base. Public school funds should not be used for a voucher system.	Public funds are for public education not sectarian causes. I am opposed.
3) What is a Board member's role & responsibility in the effective administration of schools?	We need to support the administration as well as the children to try and prevent any misunderstanding.	A board member has responsibility to the citizens of this community, teachers bargaining unit, and to review and set personnel policies.	To hire a competent administrative team, set policy, and establish goals. We have oversight responsibilities with respect to budget and administration.
4) As individuals, kids may pray in school. Should this be expanded in any way?	No. It should be the family's choice, not that of school officials, to teach children about God and prayer. But they need to experience it openly if they want.	No. Prayer is fine. Beyond prayer, religion becomes the responsibility of the church and parents.	No. I believe in total separation of church and state. Prayer is a private affair.
5) 24% of Cortland Cty 8th graders say they were sexually active last year. Do you support teaching age appropriate, comprehensive sex. ed. including instruction on birth control in schools?	Yes, it may be the responsibility of the parent but alot of them aren't taking on that task, so it needs to be presented to students so they can make informed choices.	I support comprehensive sex education. As educators, we need to be consistent in our approach to sex ed. as the Scandinavian countries are.	In the absence of parental teaching schools may have to deal with this in health ed.
6) Should creationism be taught as an alternative to evolution?	No, not as an alternative but as a possibility.	No. Evolution has a scientific basis. Creationism has religious foundation that should be taught in our churches or private religious affiliated schools.	It could be taught as another theory. Students should be aware of both.
7) How should parent requests to censor books be handled?	I'm not sure.	The school board is responsible for textbooks, supplies, etc. Parental requests, as I understand it, should go through the Board of Education.	Students should be given alternate reading assignments if content is objectionable. Develop policy to cover this area.
8) What is the most pressing problem in your school right now.	The treatment of children by other children.	For staff, issues related to staffing and tenure. For students, drugs and alcohol, attendance.	Cost of special ed. 15-16% of our students are classified. Inclusion impacts class size.
9) Do you favor school uniforms?	No. Children need to express their own personalities but in a tasteful way.	No. Modified dress code, maybe.	No.

throw a stone at her." (John 8:3-7)

"This piece of scripture makes it abundantly clear that Jesus could never have been elected to the 104th Congress, a legislative body where judging women was raised to a fine art. From Hillary Clinton to the teenage welfare mother, and finally, to those few women who have had to face the tragedy of a late-term abortion, legislators have felt entitled to pass critical judgment on women whose lives and problems are almost completely outside their predominantly male experience.

"This pattern reached its height when, in the late summer of 1995, a right to life senator...made up the non-medical and inaccurate term of "partial birth abortion" to denounce those women facing a pregnancy gone tragically wrong....

“...many legislators ignore the context and focus only on the details of the procedure. But context is everything in such matters.

“What a cardiac surgeon does in a heart bypass would be a criminal assault and mayhem except for the context....President Clinton...changed his mind when he heard (the context of women’s) stories....Many of these women (who have had the D and X procedure) have offered to meet with their legislative and/or religious critics....

"To the best of my knowledge, none have been willing to listen....

“When a similar group of men anxious to rush to judgment brought a woman before Jesus, he noted the context, Hearing their words that she was “caught in the act,” he undoubtedly noticed that they had not brought the man.... The law concerning adultery (Deut. 22:22) specified that both be put to death by stoning. Jesus refused to invoke a double standard....

“For over 1000 years the church fathers never commented on the story.... Being traditionalists in spirit and sexists in theology and practice, they clearly didn’t approve of Jesus’s behavior.... Their spirit lives on in too many modern legislators.”

Adirondack Religious Coalition for Choice newsletter,
CONSCIENCE V8 #4 Dec 96

QUOTABLE

"NO WOMAN IS REQUIRED TO BUILD THE WORLD BY DESTROYING HERSELF." RABBI SOFER

NYS POLL ON PARTIAL TRUTH ABORTION PROCEDURE

A new statewide poll of 700 likely voters by Zogby International has found that a substantial majority—71.5%—believe late term abortion should continue to be legal if a doctor determines that a woman's health is at risk, according to Family Planning Advocates of Albany who commissioned the poll. Also 76.2% think that the decision to have a so-called "partial birth" abortion in the late stages of pregnancy is a medical decision that should be made by a woman, her family and her MD. Poll done March 18-20.

WELFARE REFORM THOUGHTS

Peggy Murray of the Onondaga Women's Political Caucus says "we are left wondering about the IQs of some of our elected officials. This isn't brain surgery or rocket science. If you want someone to find a job, don't cut their child care services. If you want someone to find a job, don't cut access to their training."

THE VOTES ON INTACT D & X

The bill to outlaw one of the three specific late term abortion methods passed in the House and Senate last year and eight weeks before the Nov election President Clinton vetoed it.

At the state level, the bill passed the Senate in 1996 with Cortland's Senator Seward voting to uphold the ban (an anti-choice position) and it was narrowly defeated in the pro-choice Assembly in the last days of last year's session. Assemblyman Luster voted with us but Fessenden did not. Recently Seward and Fessenden both indicated that the vote had came up very quickly last year and that they would like to hear more about it. PLEASE WRITE. Of course, we had hoped that we would not see it again. However, on 3/10/97 the Senate again voted 40 to 19 to outlaw the procedure. Seward again voted anti choice! The 1996 vote was 39 to 21 and 2 solidly prochoice Senators were not in Albany for the latter vote.

The American College of OB and GYNs said in Jan 97 that Intact D & X would not be the only option to save the life or health of a woman but it may be the best way. (So you have 3 options to surgery and the best one is withdrawn.)



SHORT TAKES ON CHOICE

• STUDY DISPUTES ABORTION TRAUMA

An 8 yr study of 5300 women finds abortion does not trigger lasting emotional trauma. NYT 2-12-97

• US BACKS NEXT DAY EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

The gov't declared that a high dose of oral contraceptives taken within 72 hrs of unprotected intercourse is effective pregnancy provender.

• SENATE BACKS FAMILY PLANNING AID OVERSEAS

Clears the ways to send contraceptives and training abroad

NYT 2-26-97

• DYNAMIC CHANGE IN BATTLE TO BAN AB METHOD

Opponents' hope rise as Congress plans legislation to end intact D & X.

NYT 3-3-97

• LETTER TO ED FROM ALEX SANGER, PRES OF NYC

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Ab proponent's (Fitzsimmons) lie didn't change facts. Only 1% of all abs occur past the 21st wk and only four-hundredths of 1% after the 26th week.

RECENT HEADLINES

1/17/97 CS Officials Seek clues To Bombings at Clinic (Atlanta: First bomb destroys Family Planning Clinic where abortions are performed and 2nd bomb strategically timed and placed in a manner designed to hurt law enforcement officers and rescue workers.)

1/29/97 NPR John Arena and Ms. Wentworth fined \$52,000 in damages for bombing Syracuse Planned Parenthood. Also jail time.

FROM ZERO POPULATION GROWTH

*There are more shopping malls than high schools in the US

*Nearly 60% of all pregnancies in the US are unintended.

*The only things controlling an out-of-control global population explosion are family planning programs and other aid intended to enhance women's rights and opportunities.

*In the year 1800 there were 1 billion people on the planet.

*In 1997 there are almost 6 billion people and by 2044 with the present rate of growth the will be 12 billion.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 6 - School Board Elections

August 26 - 78th anniversary of women's right to vote—USE IT!

Sept 97 - Next newsletter

November 97 - Election edition of newsletter

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice

P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$10 ☐ Other

"Contributions to CCFC are NOT tax deductible."

"office use: cb _____ cp _____ tx _____"

JUDGE ACQUITS, CITING PROTESTERS' "CONSCIENCE"

Only a few days prior to the 20th Anniversary of the NY Family Planning Advocates and the 24th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, a federal judge acquitted 2 men who had been warned earlier by him either to obey the 1994 federal law (FACE) prohibiting the blocking of clinic entrances, or to be charged with criminal contempt.

On Aug 24, 1996, they had been once again, arrested after sitting in the driveway of the Women's Medical Pavilion in Dobbs Ferry. But instead of imposing a fine and ordering the behavior to stop, or criminal prosecution, Judge John E Sprizza decided in favor of the defendants because according to the NYT (1/19/97), they "acted on sincere, objectively based religious convictions."

Donna Lieberman, who directs the Reproductive Rights Project of the NYCLU, called the judge's action "an off-the-wall, scary decision." It appears that retired Bishop Geo Lynch and Franciscan Brother Christopher Moscinski, who have been arrested more than 20 times for protesting at clinics, often with Operation Rescue, may never be punished for their defiance of the federal law. The decision of the judge, who acted as both judge and jury, "may not be appealed because of the prohibition against double jeopardy, since the case ended in acquittal, not a conviction," according to Yale Law School Prof. Akhil Reed Amar.

One may only speculate about the ramifications of this decision. Does it mean that all protesters, without fear of punishment, if they are "sincere," may lie down in clinic driveways and deny access to women seeking reproductive services? Will it be OK for the Lambs of God to chain themselves to clinic doors because they have not defied a judge "willfully" which conduct Judge Sprizzo defines as having a "bad purpose?"

What other outrageous acts may be permitted in the eyes of this judge?

THE NEWSLETTER COSTS

KEEP THOSE DOLLARS COMING IN. WE ALMOST HAVE ENOUGH FOR 1997 COSTS. THIS FEELS LIKE PUBLIC RADIO BUT—HOW ABOUT ALL YOU READERS WHO HAVE NEVER CONTRIBUTED?

THANKS —

OUR CONTRIBUTORS—WE'RE IN BUSINESS FOR ANOTHER YEAR

JANE, OUR TREASURER

PAT AND SHEILA, HOSTESSES WITH THE MOSTESS MAILERS—YOU MAKE THOSE POT LUCKS A HOOT!

YOU KEEP US GOING STRONG!

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

September 1997
Vol. 6, Number 3

CATHOLIC PROVIDERS TAKE OVER HEALTH CARE (SANS FULL REPRODUCTIVE CARE) FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS IN CORTLAND

The federal government has granted NYS a waiver so that it can require all people with Medicaid to obtain care from a managed care organization (MCO or HMO). To go mandated, there must be at least two HMOs from which to choose. In preparation for this, Cortland's DSS contracted with the local HMO, PHP (Dr Hayes, et al) and a larger HMO, Better Health Care. However, PHP recently withdrew as a provider and Better Health Care is in the process of being purchased by Fidelis, a MCO sponsored by the 8 Catholic Dioceses throughout NYS. It has been operating since 1993 and currently covers 25,000 Medicaid members in the 5 boroughs of NYC.

Fidelis Care WILL NOT PROVIDE the following services: birth control pills/injections, diaphragms, IUDs, sterilizations, condoms, instruction on AIDS/STD prevention involving condoms, emergency contraception (morning after pill), artificial insemination, or abortion.

The Fidelis member handbook for patients does not explicitly state that it is not a comprehensive MCO. It does not explicitly state that it does not provide the above services. Instead the handbook says that you must go outside the system if you want the following services: family planning, HIV testing\counseling and methadone maintenance. These services are listed under this simple heading: "services with your medicaid card." A patient must know where to get these services and know that he or she has the right to obtain them. Under "prescription information," the handbook says you can get prescriptions at no charge from Fidelis, "except family planning items like birth control pills. If you need to fill a prescription for any item not covered by Fidelis, you can still use you Medicaid card to do so." Further relevant quotes state that, "Fidelis does not provide family planning services, but you may use your Medicaid card to get these services from any doctor or clinic...who accepts Medicaid. You don't need a referral..." Actually, Family Planning Advocates negotiated this by-pass for

reproductive health care for all managed care members several years ago. The bypass means that your HMO gate keeper does not have to approve your visit to an OB/GYN or for HIV, STD or family planning clinic visits. This is a best kept secret, however.

Another booklet, "Catholic Ethical Directives" governs Fidelis in the provision of health care. Fidelis may very well provide good primary care, but its ability to provide women's reproductive health care is severely compromised by its refusal to cover the items mentioned above to which they have religious objections.

The State Dept of Health which monitors these mergers and acquisitions should know that state and federal laws require every managed care organization for Medicaid participants to ensure effective access to reproductive health care and is also responsible for educating enrollees about the family planning by-pass policy. Here are several quotes of concerns from the Directives:

"A Catholic health care organization should be a responsible steward of the health care resources available to it. Collaboration with other health care providers, in ways that do not compromise Catholic social and moral teaching can be an effective means of such stewardship."

"The institute will not honor an advance directive that is contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church."

"For legitimate reasons of responsible parenthood, married couples may limit the number of their children by natural means. The Church cannot approve contraceptive interventions that either in anticipation of the marital act, or in its accomplishment or in the development of its natural consequences, have the purpose, whether as an end or a means, to render procreation impossible. Such interventions violate 'the inseparable connection, willed by God...' " (NO SEX WITHOUT BABIES)

"Reproductive technologies that substitute for the marriage act are not consistent with human dignity." This allows no artificial insemination or other assistance with infertility that "separates the unitive and procreative ends of

the act, or ...substitutes for the marital act itself....") (NO BABIES WITHOUT SEX)

Extra-corporal conception is prohibited. Heterologous (a gamete from only one of the spouses) and homologous (egg and sperm from the couple) fertilization is prohibited

Surrogate motherhood is forbidden

"Abortion is never permitted....Catholic health care institutions are not to provide abortion services, even based upon the principle of material cooperation. In this context, Catholic health care institutions need to be concerned about the danger of scandal in any association with abortion providers." Does this mean that any OB\GYN who provides abortion services can not be contracted by Fidelis?

"In case of extrauterine pregnancy, no intervention is morally licit which constitutes a direct abortion."

Prenatal diagnosis is not permitted if abortion may be the result.

"Catholic health institutions may not promote or condone contraceptive practices but should provide, for married couples, instruction in the Church's teaching on responsible parenthood and in methods of natural family planning."

"Direct sterilization of either men or women, whether permanent or temporary, is not permitted..."

ED note:

We are concerned with the member handbook's lack of direct and honest communications. Its subtle messages contrast sharply with statements in the Ethical Directives book. The member handbook never states that this is a Catholic sponsored MCO.

There is a strong, demonstrated need for family planning services—including birth control—for the Medicaid population that Fidelis proposes to serve. More than half of all women receiving public assistance in NY first gave birth as teenagers and nearly all those pregnancies were unplanned. We know from research that for every year a teen delays giving birth until age 20, her chance of living in a family below the poverty line decreases 22%. ISN'T ACCESS TO, AND EDUCATION ABOUT, FAMILY PLANNING A MORE HUMANE WELFARE REFORM? ONE MIGHT WANT TO WRITE TO BARBARA DEBUONO, MD., COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, NYS DOH, CORNING TOWER, ESP, ALBANY 12237

OPINION PIECE CATASTROPHIC PREGNANCY REVISITED— PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION

Maybe we should have walked away from this one. But we couldn't. Abortion providers are constantly putting their lives on the line in order for women to exercise their constitutional rights to abortion. There has been confusion re the number of 2nd and 3rd trimester abortions. Add to that Ron Fitzsimmons, the director of a coalition of abortion providers saying that he had lied about the number. The

Antis would have you believe that 1000s of healthy 8th and 9th month babies are being aborted as they are being born. Such abortions are patently criminal. The Antis are also wrong on such things as post abortion trauma and the abortion\breast cancer connection. 78% of the public oppose this procedure because of the misleading info that they have received. They probably would react just as strongly with graphic details on open heart surgery or saline abortions. Fitzsimmons suggested that the Pro-choice movement should have rolled over and played dead on this issue, as the antis do in allowing Medicaid funding for abortions for rape and incest victims.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION

The bill to outlaw one of the three specific late term abortion methods passed in the House and Senate last year and eight weeks before the Nov election President Clinton vetoed it.

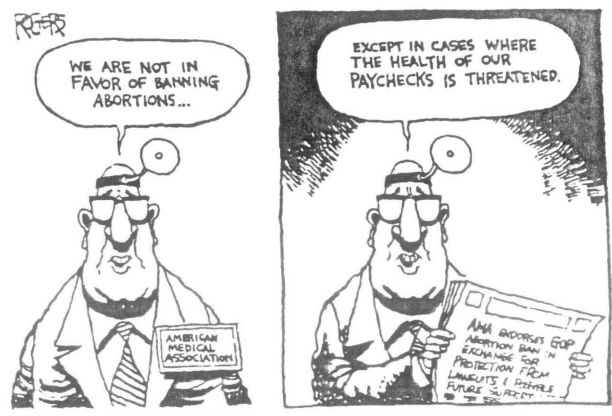
At the state level, the bill passed the Senate in 1996 with Cortland's Senator Seward voting to uphold the ban (an anti-choice position) and it was narrowly defeated in the pro-choice Assembly in the last days of last year's session. Assemblyman Luster voted with us but Fessenden did not. In a recent visit in Albany Seward and Fessenden both indicated that it came up very quickly and that they would like to hear more about it. Of course, we had hoped that we would not see it again. However on 3\10\97 the Senate again voted— 40 to 19 to outlaw the procedure. The 1996 vote was 39 to 21 and 2 solidly prochoice Senators were not in Albany for the vote.

The American College of OB and GYNs said in Jan 97 that intact D & X would not be the only option to save the life or health of the woman but it may be the best way. (So you have 3 options to surgery and the best one is withdrawn.)

"HYPOCRITIC OATH"

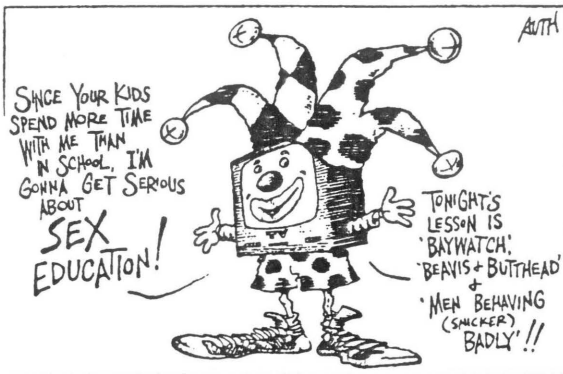
Frank Rich, columnist, reveals that the A.M.A. agreed to support Congress' ban on so-called "partial-birth" abortion after its executive V.P. had presented to Senator Santorum, the bill's sponsor, what amounted to a "Christmas list of requests," among them stalling or minimizing Medicare cuts that might adversely affect doctors' incomes.

New York Times 5-20-97



TEEN PREGNANCIES

A recent feature article dealing with teenagers who conceal their pregnancies and even deliver their babies in bizarre and often fatal circumstances, points to studies which indicate a common reason: the young woman's fear of telling her parents, especially her mother.



Lincoln, NE Five-month-old Medicaid fraud charges were dropped after a rape victim's Nebraska lawyer showed that fund regulations do not require victims to report rape to the police.
New York Times 8-8-97

GLORIA FELDT ON "PARTIAL BIRTH AB"

The CEO of Planned Parenthood of America says that the "opponents of reproductive choice deliberately chose a procedure they could define deceptively (not in medical texts) and describe gruesomely. Then they confused the WHEN an abortion is performed with the HOW it is performed and the WHY it is performed. And—as always—they ignored the real lives of women."

GET MAIL FROM THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY?

Everyone in Marty Luster's district got a letter condemning him for voting against the partial birth ab. Very costly mailing. We hope you used their stamp to tell them what you thought.

1997 ANTI-CHOICE VIOLENCE

Late last year Dr. Calvin Jackson was stabbed outside a New Orleans clinic and the man charged with the assault was later arrested with a knife, in a patient restricted area at another clinic.

A 15-yr old was arrested for two bombings outside the Reproductive Health and Adoption Clinic in Tulsa Ok. on 1/1/97 and 1/19/97. A third violent incident attributed to the boy involved shooting up medical equipment and the FBI surveillance camera inside the clinic in Feb.

One-two bombs exploded in an Atlanta Ga. clinic in Jan. The second bomb in a dumpster in the parking lot outside the clinic exploded after police and reporters arrived; six of them were injured. Mid-February another bombing occurred in Atlanta — this time at a gay bar. Police are attempting to see if these last 2 incidents are linked.

As we confront the continuation of these vicious attacks on reproductive rights we also have one of the most anti-choice majorities in Congress. They recently (7/30/97) attached 3 dreadful amendments onto title X, the nations family planning grant. Two would simply transfer title X money to congregate senior meals or the National Cancer Institute; a third would require parental consent for family planning services. We have been that route during the Reagan years with the "squeal rule."

OTHER END OF YEAR LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS—NYS

- * LATEST BUDGET EVER
- * \$19.5 M FOR FAMILY PLANNING FROM THE STATE—SAME AS LAST YEAR
- * GOVERNOR'S FAMILY CAP WAS DEFEATED (CAP prevented additional welfare grant for new child)
- * GOVERNOR'S GRADUATED CASH REDUCTION OF WELFARE BENEFITS DEFEATED.
- * STATE DSS AND DFYouth MERGED TO BE THE DEPT. OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE CONSISTING OF 2 OFFICES: OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES AND OFFICE OF TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE
- * AFDC AND HR ARE REPLACED BY FAMILY ASSISTANCE AND SAFETY NET ASSISTANCE.
- * FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS THAT THE SENATE DID NOT VOTE TO DEFUND MEDICAID ABORTIONS.
- * PARTIAL BIRTH BILL DEFEATED
- * PARENTAL NOTIFICATION FOR AB NEVER MADE IT TO THE FLOOR IN ASSEMBLY OR SENATE.
- * NO HEALTH FACILITIES ANTI VIOLENCE BILL PASSED.

BEEN THERE DID THAT—AGAIN AND AGAIN

Polly Rothstein on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Westchester Coaction for Legal Abortion offered the following:

"Our files on clinic violence go back to 1972. We battled a constitutional ban on abortion for years, but lack of congressional and popular support shifted the opposition's focus to making abs harder to get. At first these attempts were limited to denying Medicaid funding and requiring parental consent, but today include waiting periods, mandatory counseling to deter abs, etc. The only new issue is the attack on ...the methods.... The opposition invented the term "partial birth" and the inflammatory rhetoric has convinced the public that women routinely abort healthy fetuses in the last weeks of pregnancy (ed: which of course is illegal)...We are now fighting this ban in 36 states....

The politicization of the religious right began in the early '70s. Though the Moral Majority came and went, the Christian Coalition, with its coercive politics, millions of voters guides, and stranglehold on the Republican Party is more recent. And more dangerous.

'What's unchanging is that religion-based misogyny drives the anti-abortion movement. The abortion issue is not about a fetus' right to life, it's about women's role in society. Will we be autonomous, in control of our reproductive lives?

'We won't win the abortion rights battle by thinking up new arguments....No one listens anyway.... The ultimate resolution...will remain—which side can bring out more voters on election day....

'...Many politicians don't care much....they read the polls....'" Pro Choice newsletter of WCLA, Spring 97

US ANTI ABORTIONISTS HAVE THEIR WAY

The company that makes RU 486 in France will stop its manufacture because the threat of a boycott of its hay fever drug. Hoechst will give its patent and stock of RU 486 to a company being created by one of the drug's developers and it will produce the drug for the non US market. It will market only one product and therefore be boycott proof.

New York, NY. The Abortion Rights Mobilization "is expanding the stop-gap effort" to make mifepristone (RU 486) available to American women until the Population Council can resume its management of the trials. The identity of the current manufacturer is being closely guarded to avoid possible boycott and retaliation.

SUPREME COURT CONCLUDES FOR YEAR

1. MD assisted suicide not a basic right. Such rights include the right to marry, to have children, to use contraception, and to a more limited extent, choose abortion—a personal medical decision.

2. It also struck down the Communications Decency Act, a law that attempted to regulate speech on the internet.

CALENDAR

• • Nov 4,

Elections

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions \$50 \$25 \$20 \$10 Other

"Contributions to CCFC are NOT tax deductible."

"office use: cb _____ cp _____ tx _____"

DREADFUL CONNECTIONS—The KLAN, MILITIA AND THE ANTIS

They see abortion as race suicide for whites. In the 2 phase Atlanta clinic bombing in January, the second bomb was apparently aimed at federal agents as they would have rushed to the scene after the initial bombing. Last year in Oklahoma, Ray Lampley a far-right racist and 2 members of a national militia were convicted of conspiring to bomb abortion clinics, gay bars, welfare offices, an Anti-Defamation League office, and the Southern Poverty Law Office. The Phineas Priesthood is a group of white racists who think of themselves as part of a mythical kinship, named in the Bible story, in which Phineas slew an interracial couple. Three men claiming this tie were charged with bank robbery and bombing a newspaper office and a Planned Parenthood clinic. Paul Hill, who murdered an ab doctor claims Phineas connections, as does the killer of Medgar Evers.

Freedom Writer Ma/AP '97

CHRISTIAN RADIO/TV GROWS

With the recent regulatory changes by the FCC, the national religious broadcasters increased their # of radio stations by 24% to 1648, and TV stations by 57% to 257 since 1995. Ibid.

WOMEN'S HEALTH AS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

From the American J of Nursing 4/97 an editorial suggests that it is not just practices such as female genital mutilation, child marriage, female infanticide, and virginal testing in 3rd world countries that need concern us. Ethics in the U.S. were directly challenged several years ago when the government gagged providers by forbidding them to give full information about the availability of abortion as an option to patients of government funded family planning clinics. There was also the gov't proposal that clinics call parents to squeal on teens if they received services. No other developed country would do such things.

GENERAL MOTORS IN MEXICAN DISCRIMINATION CASE

GM was conducting pregnancy testing and refusing to hire any woman found pregnant—even though this is a violation of Mexican labor law. GM said that it wanted to avoid the expense of maternity leave benefits. Public outcry from this country caused GM to discontinue the pre-hire testing. There was a consequent denial of job offers to pregnant applicants.

Working Assets Phone Bill 4/97

GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

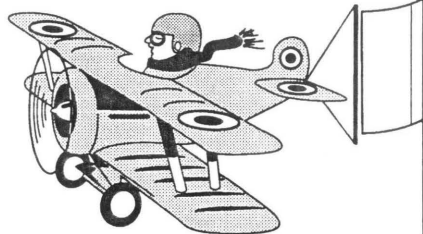
JANE, PAT, SHEILA AND JULIE

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

January 1998
Vol. 7, Number 1



JANUARY IS ANNUAL RENEWAL MONTH

WE'LL PUBLISH OUR CHOICE NEWSLETTER FOR THE 10TH YEAR IF WE HAVE YOUR SUPPORT. THIS IS OUR ONCE A YEAR APPEAL. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY. THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE KEPT US AFLOAT FOR A GOOD 9 YEARS.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

After 25 years, we still must fight for the right for safe, legal, affordable and accessible abortion services. In the past 10 years, the anti-abortion movement's verbal violence escalated to physical violence and murder. (See following related articles). Roe v. Wade has been challenged in the courts every year since January 23, 1973.

Some of us are old enough to remember when pregnant SUNY college students, in desperation, sought out illegal abortions in NYC from a woman named Ruth. The instructions were to walk around the city with a catheter inserted into your uterus. Eventually you would start to bleed and then you should check yourself into a hotel where you would abort. One local doctor recalls saving the life of one such young woman after she returned filled with infection.

***JOIN US AT THE HOLLYWOOD ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 AT 5:00 PM TO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF RIGHT TO CHOOSE. BRING FRIENDS. HATS AND GLOVES REQUIRED FOR THE LADIES.**

***JOIN US JANUARY 26TH-27TH IN ALBANY FOR THE 21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE FAMILY PLANNING ADVOCATES FEATURING ELLEN GOODMAN AS KEY-NOTE SPEAKER.**

LACK OF MEDICAID ACCESS TO ABORTION—FLORIDA CASE

A pregnant, 19 year old single mother of a 3 year old shot herself in the stomach in 1994 because she did not qualify under Florida's strict Medicaid guidelines for abortion coverage. She couldn't raise the money herself. Despondent, she shot herself and ended up with an emergency cesarean delivery and a dead infant. The Florida

Supreme Court overturned a lower court decision that would have allowed the state to prosecute her.

Reproductive Freedom News 10/31/97

FAMILY PRACTICE MDs NOT TRAINED IN REPRO. CARE

An article in the Sept 1997 Family Planning Perspectives reports that most doctors who graduate from family practice programs in the US receive little or no clinical training in repro. health care. The majority reported no training for the IUD, diaphragm or cervical cap. Only 15% of the chief residents gained any experience in providing 1st trimester abortions despite the fact that 29% of the programs offer it as optional or routine. And then only 5% said that they would possibly provide abortions.

MINORS' ABORTION ACCESS PRESERVED

On Oct 20, the US Supreme Court voted to leave unchanged the constitutional right of minors to obtain abortions without notifying parents. They refused to hear the case.

Only Justice Scalia wanted to hear the challenge. The refusal upheld rulings on this issue dating from 1979. If a minor (under age 18) is found to be mature enough, she may obtain an abortion on her own.

This case, brought by the state of Louisiana sought to have the Court end ALL women's right to terminate a pregnancy.

Most young women do involve their parents in this decision but for the sake of the few who cannot due to abuse, incest, etc. the justices maintained minors' right to abortion without parental involvement.

Ithaca Journal 10/21/97

LOWEST ABORTION RATES SINCE 1977

There has been a steady decline in the number of abortions performed in the US. Oh, that it resulted from better sex education, more use of birth control, and more communications between partners. Please do not let this be the result of: fear, arson, bombings, murder of MDs and clinic staff members, intimidation, ignorance, lack of MDs properly trained, the lack of MDs willing to risk their lives, and the lack of Medicaid funding.

Those who obtain abortions are more likely to be young, white, and unmarried; most seeking an abortion for the first time according to the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Review of 8/8/97.

More than half were done before 8 wks and 88% before 13 wks. Younger women (less than 19) were likely to obtain abortions later in pregnancy. In 1991, 12 women died from induced abortion, one of which was illegal. The death rate for abortion is 0.8 per 100,000 legal abortions. The overall pregnancy-related mortality ratio is 9.2 per 100,000 live births.

OF ALL INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES, THE US IS THE ONLY ONE WHERE ALL UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES OUTNUMBER PLANNED ONES.

ROZANNE BROOKS—CHAMPION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS DIES

The community is deeply saddened by the death of Rozanne Brooks. As an ardent supporter of choice, and with her delightfully perverse sense of humor, Dr. Brooks coined the phrase for the Coalition's first fund raiser bumper sticker—"I have a Uterus and I Vote." This was a wonderful take off on the NRA's campaign. A bus load of Cortland Choice members took the bumper sticker to a major choice march in Washington, the men among us having them stuck to their backs. They actually sold more than the women did.

Dr. Brooks also had a major involvement in the election year Meet the Candidates luncheons at the Cortland Country Club which were sponsored by the Cortland's Women's Coalition (AAUW, YWCA, SUNY WOMEN'S STUDIES, League of Women's Voters, and ZONTA)

One might consider your annual contribution to Cortland Choice as a gift to honor the life, spirit and humor of Rozanne Brooks. We will miss her greatly.

THE US CONGRESS AND INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING

The 1997 UN Population Fund State of the World Population Report had some poignant statistics. Read these against the backdrop of Congressional Republicans' systematically gutting the US family planning assistance.

- At least 75 million pregnancies each year (out of a total of about 175 million) are unwanted, resulting in 45 million abortions and 35 million live births.

- About 70,000 women die annually from unsafe abortions.
- About 200,000 maternal deaths annually result from lack or failure of contraceptive devices.
- One million people die each year from reproductive tract infections and STD's (other than AIDS). STD's result in much higher risk for AIDS, cervical cancer and other major health problems.

SPEAKOUT! October/November 1997



ABORTION LAWS: THEN AND NOW

"In 1972, 30 states banned abortion except in cases where the woman's life was in danger. In 14 other states, abortion was allowed only if the woman's health or life was at risk, if the fetus had a severe defect, or the pregnancy was caused by rape or incest.

IN JANUARY, 1973, ROE v. WADE OVERTURNED ALL THESE LAWS

In 1997, 39 states have passed laws requiring consent or notification of one or both parents before a young woman can have an abortion, but only 30 are enforcing these measures.

17 states have passed legislation to ban 'partial-birth' abortion methods since 1995, and bills to ban 'partial-birth' abortion are under consideration in 5 other states.

19 states have passed mandatory delays before abortions can be done although only 11 are enforcing them right now."

MS. Magazine, September/October 1997

CONDOMS IN SCHOOLS FOUND NOT TO AFFECT TEEN-AGE SEX RATE

A recent study by NYU researchers comparing condom use and sexual activity of public high schools students in New York City, where condoms are offered, and Chicago, where they are not, establishes an interesting finding. There is no correlation between condom distribution and an increase in teen sexual activity. The data confirm what supporters of sex education and easy availability of condoms have argued all along.

USA Today, 10-03-97

Please Renew -- We Need You!

NEW EARLY ABORTION PROCEDURE

The NYT 12/21/97 reported a new, early abortion procedure developed by the medical director at a Texas Planned Parenthood. With the new early detection kits, a pregnancy can be diagnosed even before a missed period. With Dr. Jerry Edward's new technique, a pregnancy can be determined within 8-10 days of conception. At that point, the gestational sac is the size of the head of a match stick.

The National Right to Life Committee says that there is no moral difference because a unique human being begins to develop the moment an egg is fertilized.

Twenty three Planned Parenthoods offer this technique and many are planning to shortly. This technique combines ultrasound and sensitive pregnancy detection with the use of a hand-held syringe that eliminates the noise and cost of suction curretage. This new abortion method, emergency contraception and RU486 (someday) will give women more options that don't involve having to run the gauntlet of abortion protestors at clinics.

1997 CLINIC VIOLENCE - SOME OF IT, THAT IS

Cincinnati/Dayton, OH 7-15-97

The 4 "Antis" arrested for blockading clinic refused to identify themselves, giving "John Doe" and "Jane Doe."

Tuscaloosa, AL 7-28

Firebombs gut clinic interior. Damage:\$280,000.

Portland, OR 5-27

Lovejoy Surgicenter arson. Damage:\$250,000.

Yakima, WA 5-6

Attempted arson at P.P. Clinic creates minor damage.

Bozeman, MT 4-2

"Anti" John Yankowski set fire to Dr. Susan Wicklund's office, stopped only minutes before burning out of control.

N. Hollywood, CA 3-7

"Molotov cocktail" thrown through clinic window. Damage:\$1,000.

Englewood, NJ 3-15

17 "antis" arrested after storming police barricade.

Greensboro, NC 3-6

Arson at clinic. Damage:\$50,000. The only other provider lost lease renewal because landlord feared arson.

Falls Church, VA 2-18

In a second arson, clinic damages:\$18,000.

Tulsa, OK 1-1

Two "Molotov cocktails" caused only minimal damage, no injuries.

Bakersfield, CA 3-17

"Anti" Peter Howard crashed truck loaded with 13 gas cans and 8 propane tanks through clinic doors. Firefighters doused flames before tanks exploded.

Atlanta, GA 2-21

One bomb exploded, a second discovered and detonated at lesbian nightclub. "Army of God" letter claimed credit for this and Jan. 16 clinic bombings.

Tulsa, OK 1-19

Two bombs, at same clinic site as Jan. 1 firebombing created severe damage. On Feb. 2, intruder shot up office and medical equipment.

Atlanta, GA 1-16

One bomb destroyed most of clinic interior; a second bomb detonated one hour later in the parking lot was designed to kill rescue workers, police, or clinic personnel.

ABORTION SURVEILLANCE - US

Year	# Abortions	% Decrease	Rate/1000women
1993	1,330,414	2.1	22
1994	1,267,415	4.7	21

QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT:

"As long as the husband is following the mandate of the Lord, the wife should submit to his authority."

PAT ROBERTSON, CHRISTIAN COALITION on the 700 Club

"Feminists of the more aggressive persuasion are frustrated women unable to find the proper male leadership."

TONY EVANS, PROMISE KEEPERS from Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper

"Let a woman learn in silence with all submissiveness. I permit no woman to teach or have authority over men; she is to keep silent."

RODNEY O. SKURDAL, FREEMAN and member of the CHRISTIAN IDENTITY movement from his "Edict" quoted by Pro-Choice, Summer 1997

PROMISE KEEPERS IN WASHINGTON

Some observers of the PK rally noted that there were "control issues" that should be of concern to Pro-Choice, among them a TV monitor in a prayer tent set up in the Mall showing a "tearful husband asking forgiveness from God (and all his listeners) for 'allowing' his wife to have an abortion." With its powerful behind the scenes backing by such men as Mark DeMoss, the primary funder of the anti-abortion movement, the Promise Keeper's agenda will be watched closely in the coming months by supporters of women's right to reproductive freedom.

SPEAKOUT! October/November 1997

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$10 ☐ Other

"office use: cb _____ cp _____ tx _____"

DATELINE NBC

is interested in finding women, like Michelle Crider in the San Diego area, who have been refused emergency contraception pills by pharmacists who believe ECPs are abortion agents. If you know of anyone, please notify Lisa Stokes, Planned Parenthood, Chicago, IL. (e-mail address: lisa-stokes@ppfa.org).

SPEAKOUT! October/November 1997

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION HOT LINE 1 888 NOT 2 LATE

CALENDAR

1998 150th Anniversary of the Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments in 1848. Visit the National Museum this year. It is so close. Take your children or grandchildren. It's very interactive. Celebrate and continue Central NY as the hotbed of civil rights and women's rights radicalism.

•Jan 23 Hollywood Restaurant 5:00 PM Roe v. Wade 25th Anniversary

A brief retrospective. Hats and gloves required wear for the ladies.

•Jan 26-27 Family Planning Advocates Annual Conference in Albany. A good group going this year —will be fun and very informative. Ellen Goodman is keynote.

•May School board election issue

•Sept Legislative Brunch for meeting the candidates for state and national elections.

•Nov Election issue of the newsletter with voter's guide.

GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

- Our workers good work;
- ALL THE GOOD COOKS ;
- THE NEW POT LUCKERS;

SOMETIMES US OLD ONES GET BURNED OUT;

- ALL THE GENEROUS \$\$ CONTRIBUTORS, PRESENT AND FUTURE -- THAT'S YOU.



Choice

A
Cortland, NY 13045

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

May 1998
Vol.7, Number 2

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

VOTE AND THE CHOICE IS YOURS MAY 19TH — SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS — PLEASE VOTE

VIOLENCE AND MURDER IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

This was the first time that a person was killed because of an abortion clinic bombing. The clinic security guard lost his life and a nurse was severely burned. In the past 5 years, three doctors, two clinic staff and an escort have been shot and killed as they stood to defend our right to choose abortion.

There are theories that the anti-choice people who are responsible for such crimes are reacting against their failure to influence the government to change abortion laws. They have become so anti-government that they are perhaps one and the same as the dangerous militia. They call these killings 'justifiable homicide,' they kill to prevent killing. We call it murder.

AN EDITORIAL —CONNECTING THE DOTS

A recent letter to the editor of the Cortland Standard stated that there IS a pattern to the recent upturn of youth violence. All the victims have been girls and all the perpetrators, boys. The most recent murders in Jonesboro resulted when a girl broke up with a 13 year old boy — five died.

When girls and women are not trusted or respected as moral entities capable of making important and wise decisions about their own lives, their sexuality and their reproduction, then the ultimate in 'date' violence is becoming all too frequent a result. Overall violent crime may be down but we wonder what these male — female specific statistics would show.

We recommend reading Naomi Wolf's latest book, Promiscuities. She says, and we agree, that a part of all girls' growing up is the experience of being ashamed, but at the same time, also being proud of our developing bodies. Unlike the many books for boys on rites of passage, there are few for girls who are coming of age that celebrate their sexuality and potential. Books such as Our Bodies, Our-

selves are often banned from high school libraries; and look what happened to Joycelyn Elders for responding to a question about sex (masturbation).

For developing girls, a walk down the street, especially near construction sites, is rarely comfortable. Wolf says 'Every day, one of us (as) adolescent girls might hear in conversation in the schoolyard, or on the streets, these words: 'cunt,' 'fuck,' 'pussy,' 'whore,' 'bitch,' and of course, 'slut.' We shrugged them off again and again but always felt as if a small stain from them clung to us....Of course we knew the words were about us, our bodies, our wishes. If we consider the slang terms that describe female sexual anatomy, the veil of ugliness through which our culture sees women's sexuality is all too obvious....(nowhere do we hear encoded in these terms) the idea of value or preciousness.'

Promiscuities p. 182.

UNWANTED PREGNANCY IN THE US - 43% OF ALL WOMEN WILL HAVE ABORTION

In data drawn from the National Survey of Family Growth in 1982, 1988, and 1995, author, Stanley Henshaw details the following facts in an article in Family Planning Perspectives (Jan-Feb, 1998):

1. 49% of the pregnancies in 1994 were unintended. 54% of these ended in abortion.
2. Half of all women aged 15-44 in 1984 had had an unintended pregnancy in their lifetime.
3. At 1994 rates, women can expect 1.42 unplanned pregnancies in their life.
4. The proportion of unplanned pregnancies that ended in abortions increased for women 20+ years and decreased for teens. (This fact is observed locally as well. In the 1980s, Cortland teens aborted 1/2 of all their pregnancies and delivered about 1/3, with the rest miscarriages. Now it is 1/3 abortions and 1/2 deliveries.)
5. 43% of women will have an abortion in their lifetimes if 1992 rates prevail.

THE STATE OF THE UNION THE STATE OF THE STATE

From NARAL/NYs' perspective:

1. The U.S. House of Reps is controlled by the strongest and most vociferous anti-choice majority in history. They can easily override any presidential veto.
2. The U.S. Senate also is anti-choice but a few votes short of an override.

After a few key elections this year, the President will not be able to stop them. They have obliterated the right to choose for millions of women.

Directly, and by adding anti-choice amendments to key legislation, the antis have:

- a. prohibited Medicaid funding for poor women's abortions;
 - b. prohibited abortions for US military women in overseas military hospitals, even if they use their own money;
 - c. eliminated abortion coverage from policies for federal employees;
 - d. held hostage funding for international family planning in unrelated IMF bailout legislation and long overdue payment of our dues to the U.N.
 - e. sought to abolish late term abortion procedures which may be necessary to save women's lives or health.
3. The NY State Assembly is the only pro-choice body we have. And you may imagine how the liberals will be targeted.

The opposition has the money and they ARE FOCUSED, unlike us. Here is what needs to be done:

SEND MONEY NOW TO PRO-CHOICE CANDIDATES
DEFEAT D'AMATO AND WALSH
DEFEAT OPERATION RESCUE'S RANDY TERRY FOR
CONGRESS (BINGHAMTON AREA)

NYS NARAL notes that this state has strong grassroots support for defending a woman's right to choose and that no restrictions on abortions have been implemented since abortion was first legalized in NY in 1970. We are one of very few states to claim this. OUR PROFOUND THANKS TO FAMILY PLANNING ADVOCATES FOR THEIR CONSTANT VIGILANCE.

'PARTIAL BIRTH' ABORTIONS - HOW MANY IN NYS?

According to the NYS Health Dept., the 1996 statistics for late term abortions indicate that 12 were performed. Legislation is proposed to jail MDs for providing this procedure, properly termed D and X, or dilation and evacuation

GOOD FEED BACK

We take great delight in hearing comments from folks during the first part of every year when they are responding to our annual request for operating funds. A particularly faithful reader and Buffalo activist/lawyer is prompting us to put our past newsletters in a library for archival purposes. How nice to be so recognized! She has tried to have us

included at the U of Buffalo, where we would be 'cheek to jowl' with their fabulous newsletter.

The most frequent appreciation noted is for our thorough, yet concise coverage. Thanks, we love hearing good stuff from you. Feed us more; sometimes it gets lonely and we're not sure you're out there even though we have the largest mailing list ever of 600+.

HARD TO GET AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

NARAL says that abortions have never been harder to get in all the 25 yr history. States are passing more and more restrictions and violence looms large. A record 55 state laws were passed last year restricting abortion. That was triple the number passed in '94 or '95. (Ed: We sit on our hands while our rights erode. This is especially true for our young people who are not involved because they don't want to be called the f-word, 'feminists.' They don't remember a time without safe and legal abortion. Journalist Sarah Boxer concludes that women don't want to be called 'feminists or say that the movement has helped them because they believe that the Women's movement is intended for someone else.' Yes, that's true until they need some of those rights.)

Seventeen states enforce 3 or more restrictions on abortion--up from 3 in 1992. Since the Republicans took over Congress in '95, there have been 82 ab votes, only 10 of which have been pro-choice.

Looking back, the antis often claim that Roe was the product of a liberal court. Not so. The Roe ruling was from a conservative Court acting in the best conservative tradition that ruled on behalf of women and against government intrusion according to Ann Baker, as quoted in the Buffalo SPEAKOUT v8 #5.

Roe lawyer, Sarah Weddington equates Roe to women achieving the right to vote. Women had choices after Roe and the 19th Amendment.

ABORTIONS AND OUT OF WEDLOCK BIRTHS

In 1992, only about 1/6th of the abortions performed in the US were on married women.

HOSPITAL MERGERS

More and more frequently Catholic and non-Catholic hospitals are merging in NYS. The usual scenario: 2 hospitals become one religious one and the following services are discontinued: tubal ligations, vasectomies, emergency contraception (a real problem for rape victims), HIV/AIDS counseling re prevention, abortions, birth control, latest in infertility services, and sometimes even directives for dying.

SCORECARD ON THE ABORTION "WAR"

Committed by :	PROCHOICE	PROLIFE
murders	0	6
attempted murders	0	13
death threats	0	279
arson/bombings of centers	0	152
attempted arson/bombings	0	72
blockades	0	644
stalkings/harassments	0	1362

The media likes the war image and perpetuates it. They also talk about the 'extremes' on both sides. Show me, please, what they are talking about.

Randy Terry said, 'if you believe that abortion is murder, act like it's murder.' He and others have used this as a rallying cry to transform the 'meek, passive presence of older, largely Catholic women into a dynamic mobilization of angry men and some women eager to put zeal into action,' according to Peg Johnson, Director of the Southern Tier Women's Services.

Johnson also notes that the Catholic Church has not attempted to de-escalate the violence, nor has the Republican Party.

Source: National Abortion Federation 1996 and HERA, March 1998

VIDEOS AVAILABLE

CCFC have some excellent films for loan. There is a series of three by Dorothy Fadiman who won an Academy Award for one as a best short subject documentary. Another talks to a woman as she goes through a simple abortion procedure which takes about 2 minutes. There are extremely good data on this tape which reveals some of the anti-birth control stances of the Right To Life movement.

Abortion Denied discusses how the legal limits placed on abortion cause harm and even death as in the case of Becky Bell.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER ROE V. WADE

A recent NYTimes Magazine featured an article citing ominous facts about the unconscionable erosion of choice for American women. Accompanying the "frequent-flier physician" who single-handedly keeps North Dakota's last abortion clinic open each Wednesday, the writer describes threats he faces: he is often "met on the tarmac by gangs of mostly men screaming curses at him. . . he has received phone calls by menacing voices asking 'How's your plane flying, Alex?'. . . A photograph of his plane circulates on anti-abortion internet sites."

* While the number of abortions in the U.S. has remained fairly constant (about 1.5 million each year), two-thirds of all abortion doctors are at least sixty-five years old.

* Older doctors see abortion as the means of saving women's lives and preventing complications and tragedies caused by lack of access to safe abortions.

* Younger doctors have no knowledge or experience of pre-Roe, "back-alley" times when "survivors of botched abortions regularly limped in or were carried [to hospitals]. . . 'They were bleeding, had foreign objects in their vagina or came in with temperatures of 106.' " Younger doctors. . . do not want to end up being known as the 'abortion person.'"

* The percent of OB-GYN's willing to perform abortions has dropped from 42% in 1983 to 33% in 1995. (Mergers with Catholic hospitals is a factor.)

* An OB-GYN resident comments that "Abortion is the only procedure you can choose [in medical school] not to learn. I can't say I don't believe in hysterectomies or I don't believe in tubal ligation, and therefore won't learn the procedure."

* "You can look at any medical meeting of any kind in recent history. You will not find a single paper given on abortion."

* The radical anti-abortion movement won "an important battle by making the abortion procedure a dangerous, undesirable, and even illegitimate thing to do among doctors."

* The article concludes that "abortion is a procedure that fewer doctors, hospitals, and clinics provide, next to no medical schools teach, and almost no researchers study. Twenty-five years after Roe v. Wade, the right to abortion may not be enough." 1-18-98

A BRIGHT SPOT

SOME FEDERAL COURT SUPPORT

Federal Judge Charles Wolle ruled that Planned Parenthood could open an abortion clinic in Bettendorf, Iowa, after noting that the city had applied zoning laws specifically to prevent the clinic from being developed, thus "violating the constitutional rights of the women who would be served." The Quad Cities on the Iowa-Illinois border (Bettendorf and three others: Davenport, Iowa; and Moline and Rock Island, Illinois) are the nation's largest metropolitan area without such services. NYTimes 2-14-98

A WOMAN OF PRINCIPLE AND COURAGE ANOTHER BRIGHT SPOT

Speaking from a wheelchair, Emily Lyons, the nurse maimed in the Birmingham bombing (see item on Page 1), posed a question for the bomber whose nail-filled device ripped apart her body: "What were you thinking?" she asked. "Did you really feel that this [bombing] would change something?" Without pausing this gutsy woman provided her own answer:

"The clinics will continue to stay open, the employees will continue to work, the patients will come. I want everyone to know: this person survives."

Ms. Lyons lost the sight in her left eye and her right eye is only able to detect light.

A North Carolina man charged in the bombing has not yet been found. New York Times 3-13-98

FLORIDA LAW OFFICIAL CALLS DOCTOR A 'BABY KILLER'

When Dr. Ali Azima of Fort Myers asked for protection from protesters at his abortion clinic, Sheriff John McDougal responded on official letterhead stationery:

Tell me doctor, did those tiny defenseless babies feel threatened when you ripped them out of their mother's womb? Were they fighting for their lives when you began your slaughter?

Adding that he would carry out his duty to "protect even a baby killer like yourself, . . . but would also assist protesters who wish to protect the misguided mothers who come to your clinic of death."

In the only state where doctors have been killed in anti-abortion violence, and at a time when clinics are being bombed, women's groups condemned the sheriff's words as "irresponsible and dangerous." Undergirding his quest "to combine religious principle with law enforcement duties" is his background of seven years' attendance in a Roman Catholic seminary preparing to be a Franciscan Friar.

Th only reason McDougal cited for his not having prosecuted Dr. Azima was the Supreme Court, but he vowed to "assist" the protesters. He added that while he "would never encourage violence," he would encourage people to protest.

Dr. Azima said he had complained because two of the protesters had been "extremely aggressive and abusive." and that he had wanted "to stop them before a tragedy happens."

New York Times 3-9-98

A HOSPITAL MERGER LEADS TO A LOST POST AND FEARS FOR MEDICAL FREEDOM

Attempting to be a conciliator, Dr. David Mensches instead was fired as department chair of family medicine at New York Medical College after a comment about abortion

appeared in a newspaper. The physician had agreed to lease space in his offices for a clinic that would provide abortions following a planned merger in the Kingston area of one Catholic and two non-sectarian hospitals. The merger agreement would bar all three hospitals from providing sterilizations, abortions (although only one now performs abortions), and birth control counseling, and the new clinic was intended to deflect opposition.

The news report quoted Dr. Mensches, a physician "who has won much praise over the years for his focus on poor people and his 25 years running a residency program to train doctors:"

'It takes some leadership and the same hard-headedness to take care of AIDS patients and pregnant patients,' he said firmly during a recent interview in his office. 'They have nowhere else to go. They fit the terms of our mission. It's the law of the land, and it's the right thing to do.'

The Daily Freeman

He noted that "the right thing to do" referred not to abortion but to the lease agreement which he had intended to help make the merger acceptable to the Catholic Church.

The spokeswoman for the medical college in Valhalla stated that "It is a right of a private institution [the Catholic Church] to expect its leadership to reflect its values and principles, period." Expressing his fear concerning the rancorous abortion debate, Dr. Mensches observed: "I do believe that physicians are intimidated in this country and do not wish to be trained in performing abortions, fearing for their safety. . . and there is good reason for that."

The New York Times 3-24-98

THANKS

Pat, Jane, Julia, and the many, many others who made our annual appeal so successful.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

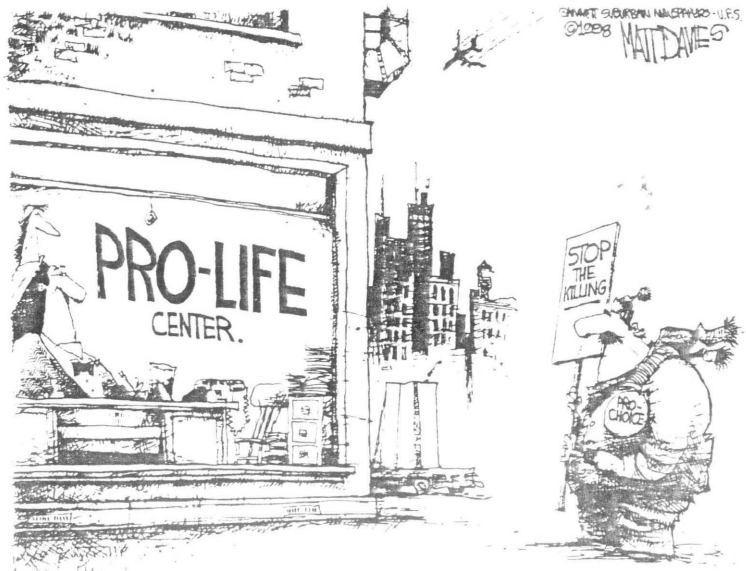
Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$10 ☐ Other

"office use: cb _____ cp _____ tx _____"





Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

Sept 1998
Vol.7, Number 3

MEET THE CANDIDATES BRUNCH

10/10/98 @ 10:00 AM.

CORTLAND COUNTRY CLUB - TICKETS @ YWCA

MANAGED CARE AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN CORTLAND

There may soon be two Health Maintenance Organizations in Cortland County. Already Fidelis/Better Health, run by the state diocese of the Catholic Church enrolls about 400 Medicaid patients. Perhaps Total Health out of Syracuse will join Fidelis. With two HMOs, the N.Y. Health Care Financing Administration will allow Cortland to begin mandatory enrollment of all Medicaid patients into one of those managed care plans. One of the requirements for all such Medicaid plans is that they provide or arrange for a full range of Medicaid benefits, including family planning, abortion, and other reproductive health services, regardless of whether these services are included in the plan's capitation rate. Plans also must inform patients of the free access policy which allows Medicaid patients to obtain family planning services without referral from the managed care gate-keeper as is required for all other referrals.

Fidelis will not provide its Cortland patients with artificial birth control (the Pill, condoms, the diaphragm, the IUD, Norplant, and Depo-Provera), abortion, sterilization, assisted or in vitro fertilization for infertile couples (no masturbation allowed) or HIV prevention education services. They ARE required to tell patients that they do not provide these services and to refer them elsewhere. This still gives a message that there is something wrong with these services. It is amazing that the state approved Fidelis as a provider of care. That reason may relate to the fact that Fidelis is able to underbid its competition, in part because it refuses to cover family planning services.

Apparently their MD providers are not too happy and they, along with many of their patients, are leaving the plan. Yet the Catholic Church remains the largest provider of health care in the state.

WHAT IS CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE?

In many parts of the state, Catholic and secular hospitals are merging and the entity that results is the Catholic hospital. For the woman in a rape crisis situation, this Catholic hospital will not provide emergency contraceptives (the morning after pill). For the woman who has just had a C-section delivery of a fourth child and desires a tubal ligation or information on birth control, this hospital will not provide either. For the HIV infected man in need of ways to prevent the transmission of his disease, this hospital will not discuss condoms.

WHO HAS ABORTIONS?

About half of all U.S. women have an abortion some time in their lives, according to the Allen Guttmacher Institute in an article in Family Planning Perspectives 28 (1998). Rates are highest among young, unmarried, poor and minority women. But women in religious, racial and ethnic groups thought to oppose abortion also have high rates. Catholic women have a 29% higher abortion rate than Protestant women. 20% of women having abortions consider themselves born again or evangelical Christians.

TEEN BIRTH RATE FALLS

For the fourth year in a row, the rate has fallen. Between 1994 and 1995, there was a 3% drop to 56.9/1000 per 15-19 yr. old girls. The largest drop has been among black teens.

The reasons:

Teen sexual activity has leveled out.

Teens are using more condoms.

New easier methods of birth control are available such as Norplant and Depo-Provera.

Source: *Nat'l Center for Health Statistics 1995*

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

IN NOVEMBER

UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES DOWN ALSO

The Feb, 98 issue of the Nation's Health, a newsletter of the American Public Health Association (APHA), reports that unintended pregnancies are down 16% between 1987 and 1994. Abortions declined by 11% during that same time period. Researchers said that this dramatic decline is largely the result of greater use of contraceptives. Teens are using more condoms in response to AIDS and some women are using highly effective methods. Other factors include the aging of the baby boom generation, changing attitudes about abortion and restricted access to abortion.

In December the CDC reported the national abortion rate had dropped to its lowest level in 20 years. This was for 1994 and 1995 data look equally good. The Guttmacher Institute research suggests that abortions are down because unwanted pregnancies are down. The U.S. unintended pregnancy rate still happens to be higher than all developed countries. Half of all our pregnancies are unintended! The obvious solution to this is to make contraceptives more, not less, widely available, the APHA urges.



VIAGRA, VIAGRA, VIAGRA!

We're tired of it already. Things seem to be settling down. A-hum. First insurance companies had no qualms about reimbursing for the \$8-10 per pill cost. Then Medicaid was reimbursing the cost. Women said, "Hey, wait a minute. We can't get insurance companies to pay for birth control yet they're paying for erections?"

According to Kelli Conlin Ex Dir of NYS NARAL "if Viagra is as successful as we've heard, then the demand for birth control is certainly going to rise at least as fast as the male appendage. The difference is, while women will be paying 100%, the potency-challenged will not.

This is especially odd because the cost of birth control is so much less than the cost of abortion, sterilization or birth."

FESSENDEN AND FALSO

Cortland's 126th NY Assembly Representative Dan Fessenden joined forces with one of his more conservative colleagues to sponsor an arcane bill calling for the state to match up to \$20M it might receive in federal aid, as part of a bonus from the federal welfare reform bill. This state match

specifies that in no instance shall grants be used to promote the use of contraceptive devices or abortion services. What must our Dan be thinking? All the research says that if you want to prevent out of wedlock births and teen pregnancies, you give people the means to do so. Prevention—primary prevention such as effective means of birth control—makes abortion less necessary. No rocket scientist need apply to figure this one out. This \$20 M is part of the illegitimacy bonus promised by the federal government to the five states which most reduce the out of wedlock birth rate without increasing the abortion rate.

There is no research that the abstinence-only approach to sex education works yet the state wants to follow the federal government in its misguided attempt to recreate a fairy tale world, one in fact that never existed. Feature this: in 1996, Congress passed and the President signed the Welfare Reform Bill that said that \$250 M of this bill is to teach folks that sex outside of marriage has harmful physical and psychological effects. Focus on the Family, the Coors Beer financed religious right moral guardians of America did a report card on each state's application for this \$250 M (\$50 M per year for the next 5 years). One state got high grades because they proposed to teach abstinence to 20-34 year olds. New York did not fare very well because it proposed to do a major media campaign aimed at young kids (obviously this would be a logical target for an abstinence message). New Hampshire, California and the city of Richmond, Virginia have pulled out of the race for this money pretty much on the basis that it is not realistic to preach abstinence only.

All the most recent research indicates that:

1. parents educating their kids about sex do not motivate sexual activity, in fact just the opposite.
2. handing out condoms in school does not increase sexual activity.
3. educating kids in HIV prevention and birth control does not increase sexual activity.

The appropriate place for abstinence-only education is in religious institutions and at home. It is pretty hypocritical to place this in a welfare bill, especially in light of current doings in Washington.

*As a point of clarity, there is abstinence-only and abstinence-plus education. The former teaches that you save sex until marriage, a perfectly appropriate message for children. The latter includes instruction in choosing abstinence but also provides information on birth control that is appropriate for teens, especially when one considers that in 1996, 25% of Cortland Countys 13-14 year olds report that they are sexually active by Jan of their 8th grade year.

DEMONSTRATIONS CONTINUE

In Rochester, demonstrators at an abortion clinic took pictures of people leaving the clinic and put them on a cable public access show according to a report in the July-Aug 98 Pro-choice network newsletter of WNY. At the Main St Clinic in Buffalo, a camouflage dressed man with a veiled

facemask carries a 6ft wooden cross to which a doll is fastened by a knife through its neck. Intimidating?

INSURANCE EQUITY ACT

One of the women's health care bills that failed to pass the NYS Senate this year was the requirement that insurance companies offering prescription coverage include contraceptives. For some schools of thought, preventing an unwanted pregnancy is at least on a par with obtaining an erection (see Viagra article). The Senate knows that preventing an unwanted pregnancy is so important to women that they will pay out of pocket for this and, in fact, women do pay more out of pocket health care costs than men do.

An Assembly bill, (Glick) would encourage early detection of women's health conditions by having insurers provide coverage for bone mass screening, hormone replacement, contraceptives, and expansion of mammography and pap screenings. No Senate companion.

US CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE RANDY TERRY

Pretty scary, isn't it? Maurice Hinchey, the Tompkins County congressional representative is being challenged by Operation Rescue's own Randy Terry. Mrs. Clinton was in Ithaca recently to do a fundraiser for Hinchey.

PATAKI RUNNING MATE OPPOSES MEDICAID FUNDING FOR ABORTION

Former state judge Mary Donahue does not agree with George on this issue. Of course, George doesn't agree with George on this issue either. Our Governor continues to run as a pro-choice candidate but never once during his senate career did he vote that way. He has a 100% rating from the Christian Coalition according to NYS NARAL

RECENT PRO-CHOICE VOTES

Senator Seward voted for Medicaid funding for abortion as did Marty Luster and Dan Fessenden, Cortland's Assembly representatives. Luster actually has a perfect record in voting for pro-choice and important women's legislation. Thanks Marty! Of the most recent 6 votes of this nature, Marty had +6 and Dan had +4. A critical bill by Gottfried would have closed the existing loophole and ensured that community residents affected by proposed changes in the operational control or mission of their local hospitals would be guaranteed public review before changes affecting local access to health care were made. Fessenden said "no" to this. Nor did he support a bill that would require the Commissioner of Health to establish education and referral standards for services that are not covered by a managed care plan and would prohibit local social service districts from auto-assigning any Medicaid recipients to a plan that failed to meet those standards. It would also allow individuals to disenroll from a restricted managed care plan at any time.

BILL CLINTON'S WOES

Ellen Goodman says, "Would someone please explain how a tale about a president's fidelity and veracity has spiraled into a fight over feminist ideology and hypocrisy?"

LIMITED ACCESS TO ABORTION

84% of all counties in the US have no abortion providers
66% of upstate N. Y. counties have no identifiable abortion provider—hospital, clinic or MD. Cortland does.
NYS women who travel for an abortion must go 50-100 miles to obtain services.
59% of all abortion providers are 65+ yrs. old.
Only 2% of all Ob/Gyns provide abortion services.
88% of Ob/Gyn residency programs do not require abortion training.

Source: NYS NARAL

ABORTION BILL FALLS SHORT OF MAJORITY

A bill that would make it a federal misdemeanor for someone other than a parent or guardian to circumvent parental consent or notification laws in a girl's home state by taking her across state lines for an abortion failed to obtain a veto proof passage in the House on 7-15-98. But the vote 276 - 150 showed a strong Republican commitment to the conservative agenda. The likely outcome of this bill, the so-called Child Custody Protection Act, would have teens going to non-restrictive states by themselves to obtain abortions.

Cortland Standard 7-16-98

SORRY NO ABORTION AND NO BIRTH CONTROL EITHER

"Contraception fueled the sexual revolution. Contraception severed the link between sex and babies and thus the link between sex and marriage. Widespread contraception was soon followed by an increase in abortion—precisely the opposite of what birth control advocates had confidently predicted."

A portion of a letter to the C.S. editor by Tom and Judy Lickona 7/98

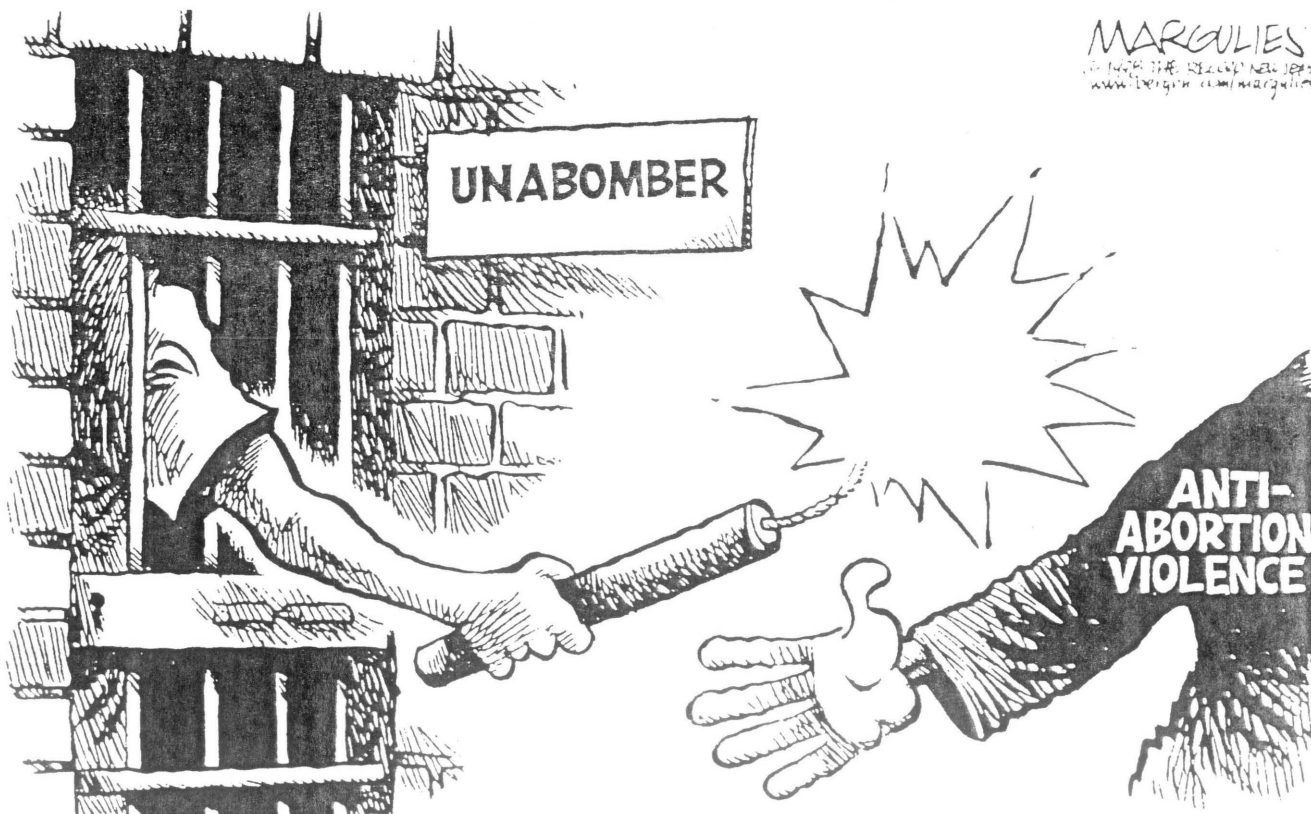
Ed note: The sexual revolution was primarily a change in the sexual behaviors of women, "catching up with male" sexual behaviors. Contraception severed the link between sex and death for some women. Contraception allowed babies to be born who were wanted, planned for and loved. Widespread contraceptive use coincided with the legalization of abortion. Some public health officials said that legal abortions simply replaced illegal ones. Currently, there is a decline in abortions and unplanned pregnancies and an increase in use of birth control in this country.

HELD ELECTION AND NO ONE CAME

Emily's List says that voter participation in the recent 1998 primaries is grim. Only 16.9 % of the eligible voters voted. Should this continue, 1998 will have the **LOWEST VOTER TURNOUT IN HISTORY**. Republican primaries turned out 7.86 %, meaning that a candidate like Randy Terry could win with 4% of the vote. The low turnout favored Republicans in 1994. James Dobson of radical religious group, Focus on the Family claims 43% of those who voted in '94 identified themselves as Christian conservatives. Generally, the most committed Republican voters and thus the most likely to dominate low turnout elections—are those aligned with far-right fringes of the party like the NRA and the Christian Coalition according to Emily's List. GOP leaders are courting their right wingers by advancing extremely conservative agendas: anti abortion, pro school prayer and in June Senate Majority leader Trent Lott called homosexuality a sin and compared it to kleptomania and alcoholism. Dick Armey agreed. Emily's List president, Ellen Malcolm says that with these 3 issues, the Republican leaders are throwing red meat to the right. EL July '98 Newsletter

CALENDAR

- **September 15 Vote in the Primary election
- **October 10, 10 Am Meet the Candidates Brunch at the Cortland Country Club
- **October 25 Next newsletter with candidate poll results on women's issues
- **November 3 Vote, Vote, Vote



The torch is passed

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions _\$50 _\$25 _\$20 _\$10 _Other

"office use: cb _____ cp _____ tx _____"

CONDOM USE INCREASES; NOT SEXUAL ACTIVITY AMONG TEENS

Critics always have said that if you tell kids about sex, they will go out and do it. NOT SO according to the research on 2000 kids reported in Family Planning Perspectives (Ma-Apr 98). Boys who got free condoms in school (and not on their lunch tray) did not have sex more often than others who did not get them did. Those who did get them used them more with first intercourse and used them more consistently.

Cortland Standard 4-16-98

MARGULIES
1000 THE COUNTRY CLUB RD
CORTLAND NY 13045

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

Oct 1998
Vol.7, Number 4

VOTE.....VOTE.....VOTE.....VOTE.....VOTE.....VOTE.....VOTE.....VOTE

VOTE AND THE CHOICE IS YOURS

"I DIDN'T HAVE TIME"*

***This was the major reason why people didn't vote in the 1996 election—given by 46% of non-voters.**

CRITICAL YEAR

It's doubtful there's ever been an election year more crucial for choice. For instance, the U.S. Senate is now only three votes short of overriding a presidential veto of the "partial birth" abortion ban. Every one of our votes counts. (See story in this issue).

Other candidates favoring women's issues need our support. Enclosed is the candidate questionnaires compiled by the Cortland Women's Coalition.

EDITORIAL

CONNECT THE DOTS OR ARE WE PARANOID?

To the Religious Reich, Clinton personifies the draft avoiding, heady youthfulness of the 1960s. The Christian Coalition (those self-appointed moral guardians and second generation to the Moral Majority) must banish that bawdiness of youth-Clinton has to go.

With nothing worthy of impeachment from Whitewater, Starr hung around long enough to catch Clinton in an inevitable "youthful" indiscretion. Starr appears to be absolutely fixated on sex, every juicy detail despite the fact that we already knew and were bored. So he built his case, and, poor guy, he just can't get the public to respond with his same fire and brimstone.

Please don't lose sight of the fact that these people who would bring down Clinton (and we are by no means excusing his behavior) are the same people who:

Wish to keep women in subservient roles;

Oppose women's freedom to choose for themselves whether or not to have an abortion;

Restrict women's access to birth control by limiting family planning funds to poor women in this country and abroad;

Oppose campaign finance reform—they say if they can raise the money to run a campaign, others can too. Recall that Reagan in 1979 agreed to change from a pro-choice governor to an anti-choice candidate for the presidency if the

Moral Majority would give him their mailing list and support. Recall that most of their direct mail fund-raising techniques arise from anti-women, anti-abortion, and anti-gay scare techniques.

We have seen the rigorous and sophisticated use of computer technology and the legal system by the religious right to make abortion nearly impossible to obtain. E-mail to Congress runs more anti-Clinton than the opinion sampling polls of the general public would indicate. Recall the anti-wide-spread use of kits, mailings and billboards on how to sue abortion providers. Roe v. Wade has been challenged every single year since 1973. These legal and electronic maneuverings are being used to bring Clinton down.

According to NPR the most recent release of the Linda Tripp tapes certainly points to a rightist plot. A half million-dollar book deal brewing with columnist, Tony Snow was revealed as well as some hints of entrapment by Tripp.

How will all this be recorded in American history? In a recent NYT's column entitled "Pig or Prig" Frank Rich worries about what America might look like if the Starrs, (Pat) Robertsons, and Dodsons (Focus on the Family—Coors Beer financed) were in power.

As in Arthur Miller's Crucible, we have the truth and yet we continue to pursue the pursuit. When do we wake up and recognize that this country is in trouble for greater reasons than a sex scandal?

CHRISTIAN RIGHT SEES VICTORY IN NOVEMBER

At their annual Washington Conference, the Christian Coalition urged members to get out the vote, with Executive Director Randy Tate asserting that "Americans are going to make this a national election on moral values." He predicted that voter turnout would be "higher among evangelical Christians, at 63 percent, than among secular voters at 58 percent." These numbers had some backing, as well, by the Wall Street Journal Poll, which reported "55 percent of white fundamentalists were highly motivated to vote in November,

while only 45 percent of union households were. It should be recalled that Unions have been one of Clinton's strongest sources of support."

The Coalition will distribute voter guides, mostly in Christian Churches on the Sunday prior to election, guides which opponents assert are illegal. According to Barry Lynn, Executive Director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, "This distribution is the biggest illegal campaign contribution to the Republican Party in U.S. history—a completely partisan corruption of the tax exempt status of American's churches." For the past two years the Coalition has been embroiled in a battle with the Federal Election Commission over allegations of illegal contributions to the Republican Party.

Ralph Reed, former Director, urged delegates to go to the polls on Nov. 3, and "make abortion the touchstone issue." Other speakers were Oliver North, Pat Robertson, and Trent Lott, Senate Majority Leader who, speaking shortly after the Senate narrowly failed to override the President's veto of the late-term abortion ban, promised a new vote "early in the next Congress if there was a big enough swing to abortion opponents."

Reuters Limited 9-29-98

TWO ABORTION CLINICS BURNED IN NORTH CAROLINA

Receiving little public notice, arson fires within minutes of each other damaged two abortion clinics in Fayetteville. Using accelerants to spread on the buildings, arsonists set the fires within fifteen minutes of each other. Roofs and ceilings were damaged and both sustained smoke and water damage inside, but there were no reported injuries. Police are investigating.

New York Times 9-8-98

LATE TERM ABORTION VETO STILL STANDS

By a margin of only three votes, the Senate failed to override President Clinton's veto of the bill banning the late term procedure, erroneously called "partial-birth" abortion. Although the House, since 1995, when the bill was first introduced, has been able to muster a veto-proof majority of votes, the Senate has consistently fallen a handful short. But November 3rd could change that since several Democratic Senators who oppose the ban are "stepping down or facing tough elections, including Carol Moseley-Brown of Illinois, Barbara Boxer of California, Russ Feingold of Wisconsin, and Patty Murray of Washington State." The sponsor of the bill, Rick Santorum, a Republican of Pennsylvania, has vowed to bring the bill back up early in the next session of Congress.

The Ithaca Journal 9-19-98

1998: YEAR OF RESTRICTIVE LEGISLATION

Right wing legislators and clinic terrorists have worked zealously to deny women access to abortion and birth control. In the last year, federal and state legislatures have passed more restrictions on abortion than at any other time since Roe v. Wade. Particularly in the last three months, there have been unprecedented attacks on all four fronts of reproductive rights—specific abortion procedures, chemical abortion, federal funding of reproductive health services and contraception for minors.

STATES' LEGISLATION-1998 (To date)

- * Legislatures introduced 305 anti-abortion bills, with 211 more carried over from '97 to '98.
- * 22 states enacted 46 anti-abortion bills, including bans on 10 procedures; 11 bills limit insurance, funding or information.
- * A Wisconsin ban on all abortions was tried, found unconstitutional, and is now under appeal.

CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION

- * Senate votes 64-36 to ban late-term abortions (May)
- * Tacked onto an Agricultural spending bill, the House votes 276-150 to prohibit funds for FDA testing and approval of any drug to induce abortion (including RU-486, Mifepristone). After women's groups' protests, Senate passes AG bill without FDA ban. Differences in the two bills go to Conference Committee for settlement. This Amendment was dropped in October Conference. (June 24)
- * Senate votes to maintain ban on abortions for military women, even if privately funded. House had passed similar bill in May. (June 25)
- * House votes 276-150 to prohibit transporting a minor across a state line for abortion unless the young woman has satisfied her home state's parental notification law (this was termed "Teen Endangerment Act" by The New York Times). (July 15)
- * House Judiciary Committee holds hearings to amend the Rico Act which helped convict Joseph Scheidler and other abortion terrorists. Antis claim First Amendment Rights of Operation Rescue et al. are violated. The Dept. of Justice opposes any changes. (July 17)
- * Senate votes to continue barring federal workers' health care plans from covering abortions. (July 22)
- * House votes 296-132 to override Clinton's veto of late abortion ban. (July 23)
- * Senate lacks 3 votes to override late term ban (see story this issue). (Sept. 18)
- * Congress antis are attempting to get approval of "a global gag rule" to ban funding for any foreign family planning group which performs abortions, or attempts to influence their nation's reproductive rights policies. (Current)

National NOW Times, Fall 1998

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

IN NOVEMBER

Cortland Women's Coalition 1998 Candidate Survey

	Karen Swallow Prior LT. GOVERNOR	James Seward STATE SENATOR	Yvonne Rothenberg U.S. CONGRESS	Charles Schumer U.S. SENATE
PARTY ENDORSEMENTS	Right to Life	Republican, Conservative	Democratic, Green, Liberal	Democratic, Independent, Liberal
Percentage of women on your executive committee	75 percent	70 percent	38 percent. We had a better percentage but one woman resigned.	None
1) If additional funds are available which 2 programs affecting women & children would receive your strongest support?	Continuing educ. for single parents, welfare, & tax incentives for married couples with children	Child care & breast cancer research	Education and minimum wage increase.	Child care and Head Start
I SUPPORT...	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2) pay equity & comparable worth measures				
3) a woman's right to choose to have an abortion	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
4) Medicaid funding for poor women's abortions	No	Yes	Yes.	Yes
5a) Spousal consent for abortion	I oppose abortion	No	No.	No
5b) 24 hr waiting period for abortion	Yes	No	No.	No
5c) Parent notification for minors' abortions	Yes	Yes. I'd like to see a process other than intimidating court proceedings to allow reasons for non-notification of par-ents to be reviewed/approved	No.	No
5d) "Partial birth" abortion ban	Yes	Yes	The questions below are for federal candidates only: I support elective use of RU-486 for abortions. Yes I support "partial birth" abortion ban. No I support affirmative action Yes I support school vouchers for private school tuition. No I support the ban on assault weapons. Yes I support an increase in the minimum wage. Yes I support a ban on soft money Yes What initiatives do you propose to revitalize NY State's economy? We should work with nationally recognized sustain-able development experts & develop a plan that considers mass transit, green spaces, educational facilities, regional tax structure, housing patterns, tourism, natural resources & small business development. Corporate tax breaks /subsidies should be tied to equity in the co-oration for workers & the community. Companies that accept subsidies, then leave should pay job & community destruction penalties. I support funding for international family planning agencies. Yes I support a higher level of funding for Title X, the federal family planning program. Yes What will you do to improve educational outcomes in this country? Federal govt. should sponsor research needed to adapt schools to changing needs, promulgate standards & guidelines for teachers & administrators, provide uni-form assessment standards for students & require a core curriculum that emphasizes skills needed in the information age. Federal govt. should provide financing to replace/expand educational resources & require equitable funding for all schools.	Questions below are for federal candidates only: I support the elective use of RU-486 for abortions. Yes I support "partial birth" abortion ban. No I support affirmative action Yes I support school vouchers for private school tuition. No I support the ban on assault weapons. Yes I support an increase in the minimum wage. Yes I support a ban on soft money Yes What initiatives do you propose to revitalize NY State's economy? Cut electricity rates, lower property taxes, college tuition should be tax deductible, reform pensions, link schools to jobs I support funding for international family planning agencies. Yes I support a higher level of funding for Title X, the federal family planning program. Yes What will you do to improve educational outcomes in this country? Raise education standards, hire more teachers, wire schools to the Inter-net, reform curriculum.
6) a state single payer health care initiative	Undecided	No		
7) a ban on soft money (unregulated use of campaign contributions)	Yes. I support some reform but want to be careful not to interfere with First Amendment & grassroots citizens' efforts.	No. The soft/hard money dichotomy relates to federal law defining uses of contributions. As a state senator I support full disclosure of contributions & computer filing & availability of state campaign filings.		
8) legislation to provide family planning services under Medicaid to working women if family income at or below 200% of poverty level	Yes, non-abortifacient only.	Yes		
9) Health insurance policies that cover prescriptions should cover contraception	Yes, non-abortifacient only.	Yes		
10) Local DSS should not assign Medicaid managed care patients to plans that do not provide full reproductive health care	Yes (wording of this question is ambiguous).	Yes. I agree.		
11) What initiatives do you propose to revitalize the Cortland economy	No response	I will keep working with local officials & business in order to assist with local business needs. As sponsor of the "Power for Jobs" program, I've ensured that local businesses receive consideration for the cheaper electricity available thru the program. I have supported business & income tax cuts & ensured that SUNY Cortland, a major economic force, receive significant state funding.		

Cortland Women's Coalition 1998 Candidate Survey

	Douglas Harknett COMPTROLLER	Betsy McCoy Ross GOVERNOR	Michael Reynolds GOVERNOR	Marty Luster STATE ASSEMBLY	H. Carl McCall COMPTROLLER
PARTY ENDORSEMENTS	Right to Life	Liberal	Right to Life	Democratic	Democratic, Liberal, Independence
Percentage of women on your executive committee	No Exec. Comm.	No committee	50 percent	75 percent	No answer
1) If additional funds are available which 2 programs affecting women & children would receive your strongest support	Maternity & early childhood foundation & the WIC program	family planning, Child Health Plus, cancer mapping	Early detection & tracking of breast cancer & universal health insurance for children	family planning, breast cancer screening & education, school health clinics	Child Health Plus, child care and public assistance/ job training
I SUPPORT . . . 2) pay equity & comparable worth measures	I support equal pay for the same job. I don't think it is possible to compare different jobs that require different abilities & skills, except by supply & demand	Yes	Yes to pay equity. No to comparable worth.	Yes	Yes
3) a woman's right to choose to have an abortion	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
4) Medicaid funding for poor women's abortions	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
5a) Spousal consent for abortion	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
5b) 24 hr. waiting period for abortion	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
5c) Parent notification for minors' abortions	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
5d) "Partial birth" abortion ban	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
6) a state single payer health care initiative	No	Yes, with some conditions	No	Yes	Yes
7) a ban on soft money (unregulated use of campaign contributions)	I favor stricter regulations on soft money	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
8) legislation to provide family planning services under Medicaid to working women if family income is at or below 200% of poverty level	No	Yes	Yes, to family planning other than abortion or abortion referral	Yes	Yes
9) Health insurance policies that cover prescriptions should cover contraception	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
10) Local DSS should not assign Medicaid managed care patients to plans that do not provide full reproductive health care	No	Yes. I agree.	No	Yes	Yes
11) What initiatives do you propose to revitalize the Cortland economy	No response	1) Specific proposals to lower electric rates. 2) Build high-tech & bio research business starts with incubators connected to SUNY as well as investment credits for companies that pay universities in NY State for more research	Meet with local businesses & elected officials to develop a plan suitable to Cortland's specific needs,	Redirect efforts to focus on small businesses. Governor's small business vetoes should be reversed. Emphasize the economic role that SUNY plays. Vigorously support SUNY.	Specific state/ local economic disbursement strategy for each region of the state. Increase access of small business to capital. My office recently started a \$100 million loan fund for small business with emphasis on women-owned business

WOMEN'S COALITION: ZONTA, YWCA, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN AND
SUNY CORTLAND WOMEN'S STUDIES COMMITTEE

10-09-98

A GLOBAL DIVIDE ON ABORTION SPLITS POOR FROM RICH IN THE UNITED NATIONS

According to World Health Organization data, "of about 20 million unsafe—sometimes legal, but more often illegal—abortions estimated to take place each year worldwide, 90 percent occur in developing countries...of the 80,000 deaths that result, 95 percent are in poor nations." Rep. Christopher Smith (Rep. N.J.) "has blocked American payments to the U.N. with an amendment denying money to any organization that lobbies for liberalized abortion laws in any country." He believes that "helping poor children, not preventing them from being born, should be the priority of foreign aid." But because family planning services are not available, according to surveys, to more than 350 million women in the developing world, they turn to abortion, even when illegal, and will continue to do so as a last resort experts say. Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director of the U.N. Populations Fund, notes that "contrary to public belief most of the unsafe, illegal abortions take place among married women."

*Differences in abortion around the world**

CONDITION	Abortion Permitted (%)—YES	NO
To save a woman's life	97	3*
To preserve the woman's physical health	63	37
To preserve the woman's mental health	51	41
For rape or incest	43	57
When there is possibility of fetal impairment	42	58
For economic or social reasons	31	69
Upon request	25	75

*Andorra, Malta, Vatican (Holy See), El Salvador, Chile

Safe and Unsafe

Approximately 25 million abortions were performed in the early 1990's under safe conditions. About 55% occurred in the developing nations.

SAFE	Developed	Developing Nations
# performed	11 million	14 million

Approximately 20 million were performed in illegal or unsafe conditions.

UNSAFE		
# performed	2 million	18 million

DEATH RATES

Annual Number of Deaths From Abortions

Legal, safe	500	500
Unsafe	1200	69,300

*Data Source: Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat

The New York Times 6-7-98

CORRECTING A CANDIDATE'S OMISSION

Most of us who've been around awhile know that Al D'Amato's anti-abortion votes in the Senate have been as predictable as the morning sunrise. But then, dear reader, you may ask, how come we haven't seen a single TV ad which would remind us of his relentless opposition to women's right to choose? Click on to another predictable

behavior of the Senator: he pays close attention to the polls, and these have indicated, again and again, that most New Yorkers support abortion rights. So, here's the Senator's problem: in two of the three elections he's won, he could not have been elected without the Right-to-Life and Conservative Party vote, and these party members are complaining that in the current campaign, the Senator has been neither vocal nor visible about his anti-abortion position. But, if he trumpets his sterling anti-choice credentials to win the RTL and Conservative vote, he runs the risk of turning away pro-choice voters. He's in a bind. But, not to worry, NARAL (National Abortion Rights Action League) has come to this rescue. Yes! And this must truly put his knickers in a twist, for they are running an ad campaign by direct mail, leaflets, and radio commercials—most in Metropolitan New York City—which reminds voters of his solid anti-abortion history. RTL and Conservative voters will know that "he is running hard for their support...and thanks to his long record of anti-abortion votes, deserves to get it."

The New York Times 8-24-98

FIRST YOU SEE IT, THEN YOU DON'T: STRANGE JUSTICE REVISITED AND REJECTED

After Rupert Murdoch, Chairman of the News Corporation which owns Fox TV, read Strange Justice, a book about the sexual harassment charges against Clarence Thomas, Fox scrapped plans to produce a drama based on the work. According to sources close to the situation, Murdoch told an associate that "Justice Thomas was a friend of his...and he had been railroaded in the confirmation hearings." Published in 1994 and authored by two Wall Street Journal reporters, the book concluded that Anita Hill had told the truth in her charges. In naming the book a finalist in The Annual Book Awards, officials described it as "a meticulous investigation." Murdoch, known for "assiduously courting the conservative establishment," very recently hosted a fundraiser (at \$1,000 a pop) for Senator McCain, Chairman of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, which oversees the Federal Communication Commission. (It may be recalled that it was Senator McCain who, this past summer, regaled a Republican fund-raiser audience with a gross and obscene "joke" about Chelsea Clinton. ed.)

The New York Times 9-14-98

NEW YORK HOLDS THE LINE ON CHOICE: REJECTS SO-CALLED "PARTIAL BIRTH" ABORTION BAN

Anti-choice groups, led by the state Conservative Party and the Catholic Conference, are putting enormous pressure on state legislators who support a woman's right to choose. Focusing on the little known intact dilation and extraction abortion procedure (seldom used, but available in a catastrophic, late-term pregnancy), these groups termed the

procedure "partial-birth" abortion, although there is no such medical term. After dozens of states banned the procedure, courts in many states have found such laws unconstitutional. This year, the bill in New York to ban such abortions differed from those in previous years and from those passed in other states. The bill made no exception for a woman whose life is endangered, and its vagueness could apply to almost any abortion procedure.

The Senate did not vote on it at all this year. In the Assembly, an attempt was made to force a full house vote on the issue, but it was defeated by a narrow margin. It was returned to the Health Committee who decided to hold the bill. Intensive lobbying by a range of groups, including NARAL and Planned Parenthood of New York City, helped defeat the bill. Without sustained effort to educate legislators and to counter anti-choice political pressure, such a bill may become law in our state.

FPA Albany MEMO: Summer, 1998

DID YOU KNOW??????

"The January bombing of a Birmingham, Alabama, abortion and family planning clinic, which murdered an off-duty policeman and maimed a nurse, happened only three days after the clinic-in concert with several other abortion providers-won an important legal victory against Alabama's anti-choice Governor Fob James. A federal district judge has ruled to deny the Governor's motion to dismiss the critics' challenge (Summit Medical Associates v. James) against Alabama's bans on 'partial birth abortion' and abortions performed after fetal viability. In his motion to dismiss, the Governor urged the Court to hold that there is no constitutional right to abortion under the United States Constitution, and to find that the Supreme Court had acted outside its authority in deciding Roe v. Wade. The court firmly rejected his requests."

PCN Network News, July/August 1998

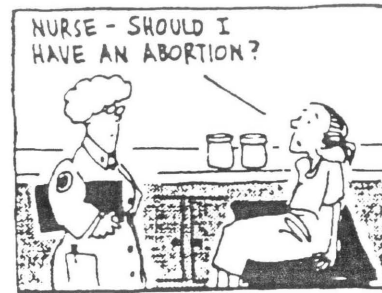
THANKS AND APPRECIATION

To: Carol, Jane, Rhona, Andrea, Fran and all those other wonderful women who keep making this endeavor of ours fun!!!

CALENDAR

- NOVEMBER 3 - TUESDAY - ELECTION - VOTE!!!!
- JAN 22, 1999: 26th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade
Celebrate Happy Hour at the Hollywood at 5:00!

VOTE!!!



WASSERMAN © '93 BOSTON GLOBE

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions _\$50 _\$25 _\$20 _\$10 _Other

"office use: cb _____ cp _____ tx _____"

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

January 1999 1999
Vol. 8, Number 1



JANUARY IS ANNUAL RENEWAL MONTH

WE MOURN THE DEATH OF DR BARNETT SLEPIAN

THANK YOU!!!!

Thanks to our contributors, we have covered our production and postage costs for this newsletter for the past 10 years. We work carefully to ensure that our research is from reliable sources and scientifically correct. When you send your check tell us the thing that you like best about the newsletter. And what bugs you?

THE FOLLOWING WAS IN OUR OCTOBER CHOICE NEWSLETTER :

CHRISTIAN RIGHT SEES VICTORY IN NOVEMBER

At their annual Washington Conference, the Christian Coalition urged members to get out the vote, with Executive Director Randy Tate asserting that "Americans are going to make this a national election on moral values." He predicted that voter turnout would be "higher among evangelical Christians, at 63 percent, than among secular voters at 58 percent." These numbers had some backing, as well, by the Wall Street Journal Poll. *Ed: We gloat!*

FOUR DEATHS THAT INFLUENCED OUR NOVEMBER '98 ELECTION

Dr Barnett Slepian, Mathew Shepard, the African American who was dragged to death from a pick-up truck and the woman from Skaneateles who was beaten and cyanide-poisoned by her husband were all victims of hate crimes. Let us hope that America is becoming more aware of the damage caused by a tiny minority of people who are simply hate-crazed. The murderers of Dr. Slepian and Mr. Shepard were in all likelihood fed by powerful anti-abortion and anti-gay forces that are so often one and the same. The Religious Right has made fortunes on these two issues

UPDATED SCORECARD FOR LIFE

ACT	Pro Choice	"Pro Life"
Murders	0	7*
Attempted Murders	0	13
Death Threats	0	279
Arson/Bombings of Centers	0	152
Attempted arson/bombings	0	72
Blockades	0	644
Stalkings/harassment	0	1362

*1998 data; the rest is less current and from the National Abortion Federation 1996

AN ELECTION ANALYSIS

Why were the polls so wrong? There were several things that motivated voters and much of it was at the last minute. The deaths mentioned above clearly motivated liberal types to get out and vote. Bill Clinton's calls to the African American voters (probably through their church networks) motivated voters. Democrats were energized by the pollsters saying that many races were too close to call.

Noted pollster, John Zogby, addressed the Family Planning Advocates Annual meeting on November 12th to share his insights into what was supposed to be a Seinfeld (boring) election. He admitted being wrong on the Schummer and Spitzer races and noted that the poles did start showing a Schummer lead on Sunday Nov 1st, the last polling day before the election. D'Amato had won his last election in 1992 despite being 8 points down and with a 32% approval rating.

There were big winners and losers in this election, he noted. Winners were moderates, Al Gore, Gebhardt, Unions Gray Davis, the two Jessies (Ventura and Jackson), the Bush brothers, Pro choice Voters, moderate Republican governors Hillary, Bill and incumbants.

The Christian Right, Ken Starr, Hubert Humphrey III, Californians and their non-partisan referendum were BIG LOSERS. Thirty-one (31%) of those who identified themselves as Christian Right voted for moderate Democrats. They tended to be more female than male, concerned with invasion of privacy issues, and worried that Congress is obsessed with impeachment to the detriment of education.

Zogby warned of "poll-ution" given the fact that 24hr news stations have to fill the news holes. Polls make good copy.

Other tidbits: H. Carl McCall got more votes than Pataki. Republicans outspent Democrats 2 to 1. Gingrich boasted for months about gaining a filibuster-proof Senate majority.

The choice issue was significant in the Bob Dornan/Loretta Sanchez California Congressional race, the Gray Davis/Lungren governor's race, the Neuman/Feingold Senate race in Wisconsin, Patty Murray/Linda Smith in Washington. Two partial birth abortion ballots initiatives in Washington and Colorado both lost decisively.

Now the House and the Senate both have more pro-choicers than last year but still not the majorities. The senate appears to be 3 votes short of an override of Clinton's veto of "partial birth."

THE PROLIFE HIT LIST

Dr David Gunn, Ret. Col. William Burnett (clinic defender), Dr Bayard Britton, Shannon Lowey, Leanne Nichols (both clinic staff) Robert Sanderson (clinic security) and Dr Barnett Slepian—all murdered in the name of Pro-life.

AMHERST TRAGEDY

Andrew, Brian, Philip and Michael are the names of Dr. Slepian's sons. A fund for their college education has been set up. All donations can be sent to: Fleet Private Group, 10 Fountain Plaza, Buffalo, NY 14202.

Dr. Slepian was the only ObGyn in the Buffalo area to provide abortions for women on Medicaid. He was shot down in his home after returning from Temple on a Friday evening. As we absorbed the shock of this death during that first week, women's clinics in 3 states received letters claiming to contain anthrax. More than 30 people including the mail carrier were hospitalized as a precaution.

The pro-life response to this murder may be found on a pro-choice site: <http://wlo.org/wwa/>. Dr. Slepian's name was removed from the anti's web site hit list immediately after his murder. How many more will die?

CHOICE STATUS 1999

Congress remains anti-choice. Since 1995, it has cast nearly 100 votes on abortion, and only 14 were positive in preserving choice. Only 16% of all US counties have abortion providers. (Cortland, as a small rural community, is lucky to have these services available so that women and

especially low income women do not have to travel.) More than a third of all states enforce 3 or more onerous restrictions (eg. waiting periods, bias scripted warnings, parental consent or notification, etc.) on women's rights to choose. New Yorkers have been strong in resisting all these impediments to their constitutionally protected right.

Laws passed in 7 states restricting abortion services from state employee's insurance plans and child health initiatives that are provided for children up to age 18. Up until recently, NY's Catholic Conference prevented Child Health Plus from covering children beyond age 13 for fear abortion services might be needed.

Every year since 1995, Congress has moved to cut Title X, the source of funding for most family planning clinics. This is the very program that appears to be making the difference in teens' lives. Title X funds clinics that serve 4 million low income and teen women. Nationwide teen pregnancies and births have been decreasing since 1992. This is due to greater use of birth control, condoms, and abstinence knowledge, all provided by family planning agencies. In the face of AIDS, schools have provided better sexuality education also.

Source: *NARAL News* VI29#11

RANDY TERRY'S RUN FOR CONGRESS

Apple farmer Bud Walker defeated Operation Rescue's Randy Terry for the Republican place on the ballot for US 26th Congress. The fact that he could even run in the Republican primary motivated a few people to change their Republican party registration.

Terry remained on the ballot as the RTL candidate, of course. He amassed over \$1 million in his unsuccessful attempt to defeat Maurice Hinchey. He now has an even larger support network. Rest assured that he will use that network again.

RICKIE SOLINGER: AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The author of Wake Up Little Susie: Single Pregnancy and Race Before Roe v. Wade, speaking at SUNY Cortland Sept. 22nd, cited three long struggles between authority, which seeks to maintain the patriarchal system, and women, who wish to control their own bodies. First came the struggle for legal contraception; second, for legal abortion; and third, to end race and class as a means to control women's bodies. She gave three examples from history of how the struggles involved city, medical, and national politics. Because abortion was not illegal in the U.S. until the mid-19th century, most cities tolerated abortionists well through the 1930's. Citing as an example, Ruth Barnett who practiced in Portland, Oregon for thirty-three years "with complete freedom" and never lost a patient, Solinger referred

Please Renew -- We Need You!

to the agreement with city police that if there "were no deaths," there would be "no prosecutions." Following WWII, however, the "terrain changed" in a widespread trend to portray the nation as "the cleanest and most law-abiding in the world," and city officials determined that abortion was now a crime. In courts, women were forced to testify against providers and to describe in painful and humiliating detail how the abortions had been performed (only women abortionists were prosecuted).

By the late '40's and early 50's, doctors were dramatically curtailing legal abortions (termed "therapeutic abortions"), procedures deemed necessary to preserve the health of the mother. In the dissension about the issue, hospital boards were created to decide which women could, or could not, have an abortion. Several doctors' letters were required when a woman applied to a board, and hospitals vied to have the lowest rate. A subtle shift in emphasis occurred at this time, sparked to quite some degree by Neilsson's photographs of fetuses in various stages of development, published in *Life* magazine. The irony surrounding these wonderful pictures of developing fetuses was that none of them was alive. The focus shifted away from the mother to the fetus, with the woman's body seen as a vessel for the development of a baby. Mixing science with attitudes towards women, the establishment determined that women would make bad choices if they were not constrained.

Finally, national policy allowed the state the right to decide who is to be a mother, and when a woman is a mother, thus controlling women "variably," by class (rich versus poor) and by race (white versus black). By 1945, parental, school, and church authority determined that young, white women would not keep their babies, "fallen women" with "bastard children," pronouncing that such offspring should be put up for adoption ("you cannot be a mother"). Yet, unmarried black women could keep their babies, a situation which has led to many childless couples traveling to foreign countries to adopt babies, often countries where women have few rights. Solinger closed by reminding women that they must have autonomy over their own bodies if they are ever to have full citizenship.

DISPUTED MERGER PLANS COLLAPSE

Plans to merge two secular and one Catholic hospital in New York's Mid-Hudson Valley fell apart following community opposition which included a broad range of clergy. Among those speaking out was the First Congregational Church pastor who described the experience of a 14-year-old member of his congregation who, after having been raped was taken to the emergency room of the Catholic hospital, St. Francis. Following Catholic health rules the personnel refused to provide her with the "morning after" pill. Rev. Hensley-Weir asks "What would this young girl have done if her family had not had the resources to find help for her elsewhere. . . and what if the policies of St. Francis were to control both hospitals in Poughkeepsie?" He described the

issue as one of religious freedom, and noted that "even a local minister who is anti-choice signed a clergy letter protesting the religious terms of the [proposed] merger."

ProChoice IDEA. Summer/Fall 1998

INQUIRY CRITICIZES A.M.A. BACKING OF ABORTION PROCEDURE BAN

A consulting company, Booz Allen & Hamilton, was hired by the A.M.A. to assist with a study of the structure and governance of the organization. Its scathing report says that the organization "ignored its own decision-making procedures, got swept up in politics and failed to protect the welfare of patients when it endorsed a Republican bill banning a specific abortion procedure last year. "It noted that the A.M.A. "rushed to embrace the bill," and that it "set itself up for accusations of playing politics," because it announced its support for the abortion bill on the same day it asked Congress to shield doctors from deep cuts in Medicare. It stated, also, that while A.M.A. officials "negotiated directly with Congressional sponsors of the legislation, they failed to consult adequately with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and other groups of medical specialists."

The New York Times 12-4-9

ANTI-ABORTION VIOLENCE

Katha Pollitt in *The Nation* (11-16-98; p. 9) notes that "...extreme vocabulary creates a climate of moral permission for extreme acts."

cited by *PCN Network News*, December, 1998.
(Commemorative Issue for Dr. Barnett Slepian)

PATAKI PLANS BILL TO PROTECT ABORTION CLINICS FROM HARASSMENT

Describing the murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian as a "heinous act of terror," the Governor will introduce legislation almost identical to that of the FACE (Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances) protection under Federal Law
The Governor . . .

RIGHT TO ABORTION ADVANCES IN STATE COURTS

An increasingly conservative Federal judiciary is being by-passed since state constitutions often contain greater privacy rights than the U.S. Constitution; and state courts are seen by rights groups as the avenue to expand choice. New Mexico became the 16th state to provide Medicaid funding for medically necessary abortions, after its Supreme Court ruled that the state's Human Services Department "had discriminated against women by denying money for abortions to poor women while paying for any medically necessary procedure for poor men."

The New York Times, 12-6-98

CHALLENGE TO "NUREMBURG" WEBSITE

Planned Parenthood of Portland, Oregon, citing the FACE law, is suing the controversial Internet site listing names, addresses, and license plate numbers of hundreds of doctors, and even the names of their children. Shortly after Dr. Barnett Slepian was murdered his name was crossed off the list operated by defendant Michael Bray, a Reformed Lutheran pastor who spent nearly four years in jail in the '80's for setting fires to clinics.

In some cases the site "chronicles a doctor's personal history, property, physical appearance and wedding anniversary dates. It invites readers to send in photos, videotapes and background data on doctors, their cars, their house, their friends and their children. "Bray, warning that if Planned Parenthood should win, and such "protests are blocked" stated that "it leaves only one option: the covert use of force—vandalism, blowing up places and terminating doctors."

The Cortland Standard, 01-07-99

RENEW

HIGH MARKS ON RIGHT-WING SCORECARDS:

Hastert has consistently received his highest ratings on legislative scorecards from right-wing and conservative groups.

Christian Coalition	100%
National Rifle Association	100%
National Right to Life	100%
National Fed. of Independent Business	100%
American Conservative Union	88%
Center for Security Policy	80%
Competitive Enterprise Institute	76%
U.S. Chamber of Commerce	100%
American Civil Liberties Union	0%
AFL-CIO	0%
League of Conservation Voters	13%

Focus on the Family, the Christian Coalition, the Family Research Council, Eagle Forum, National Rifle Association, and National Right to Life are all preparing their victory dance in celebration of Rep. Dennis Hastert as the next Speaker of the House. The Religious Right may not have been unhappy with the earlier choice of Rep. Bob Livingston, but Hastert is a much better fit. As an Evangelical Christian and a social and economic conservative, Hastert's voting record and his beliefs are entirely aligned with their goals.

Hastert is vehemently anti-choice as reflected in his co-sponsorship of the "human life amendment" four times. The human life amendment would overturn Roe v. Wade by amending the U.S. Constitution. Hastert supports parental notification for minors seeking contraceptives from federally-funded clinics and criminalizing the transportation of minors across state lines for abortion services. Hastert is opposed to late-term abortions and wants to block FDA approval of non-surgical "abortion pills" such as RU-486.

He also voted in opposition to federal employees' health care plans coverage of the cost of contraception and in favor of banning abortions at military hospitals.

Source: Right Wing Watch Online

FOUR ABORTION CLINICS RECEIVE ANTHRAX THREAT

Letters containing a suspicious-looking powdered substance were sent to facilities

in three states. Although proven to be a hoax, the perceived danger sent dozens to the hospital, and caused the evacuation of the Indianapolis clinic.

The New York Times, 10-30-98

SETON HALL BANS AWARD EVENT FOR WHITMAN, OVER ABORTION

A student-sponsored event honoring the New Jersey Governor was ordered to move from the law school to an off-campus site because of her pro-choice views. The award honors women for their achievements in law and public service.

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

May 1999
Vol.8, Number 2

VOTE AND THE CHOICE IS YOURS MAY 18TH — SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS — PLEASE VOTE

FROM THE CORTLAND STANDARD (CS):

10/29/98 Buffalo Abortion clinic was back in business 5 days after its primary provider, Dr Slepian was murdered. Physicians around the country offered to fill in.

11/19/98 Operation Rescue Founder Files for Bankruptcy. Citing enormous fines (\$1.6M) owed to womens groups, lawyers and abortion clinics, Randy Terry filed in Syracuse. His \$300,000 home is in his wife's name. (This man ran for Congress on the platform to eliminate the IRS, Social Security and welfare.

11/20/98 Pataki to Propose Clinic Access Legislation. Prompted by the slaying of Dr Slepian, the governor will propose the law to beef up protection of clinics and clinic personnel. Last year NY Republicans blocked such a bill in the state Senate. Pataki's move is expected to put pressure on the Senate. The FACE law at the federal level is insufficient because local law enforcers can not charge people with federal crimes.

1/22/99 Attorney General Spitzer to Unveil Reproductive Rights Unit. It will look at clinic violence, women's access to clinics, anti-choice web sites and hospital mergers which will deny birth control, infertility or abortion services.

(A recent study by Catholics for Free Choice showed that 82% of Catholic hospital emergency rooms do not provide emergency contraception (EC) to rape victims.)

OPERATION SAVE AMERICA!

With incendiary fervor and great insensitivity for the murder of Dr. Slepian, Right to Lifers will again take Buffalo April 18-25. Some 60,000 invitations have been extended. This is a reenactment of their 1992 onslaught of Buffalo called, Spring of Life. Flip Benham, Operation Rescue's Director and one of the organizers of the week said that Attorney General Spitzer's quest (see 1/22/99 Cortland Standard article) was "foolish and heavy handed" and might

decrease the number at the week long event. The 1992 event saw 600 arrests of people who tried to blockade the Main St. clinic, the clinic where Dr. Slepian practiced. Buffalo prepares for the event by creating temporary jails in the Armory.

Plans include demonstrations at several abortion clinics, child porn protests at bookstores, and attempts to bring the gospel, abstinence literature and pictures of aborted fetuses to high schools.

According to 1/25/99 article in the C.S., some anti choice leaders questioned the wisdom of this reunion. The Rev. Robert Schenck, arrested at the 1992 protest, suggested that the movement work more on legislative restrictions and legal cases of women harmed by abortion. Schenck received back from Mrs. Slepian the 7 dozen roses he sent. He said that he thought that one through again too. Schenck and his twin conducted prayer sessions in the offices of our Washington representatives and they presented each rep. with the 10 commandments carved in marble. Now who could refuse?

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES (email/snail mail)

Governor - gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us

State Capital, Albany, NY 12224

Assembly Speaker - silver@assembly.state.ny.us

932 LOB, Albany, NY 12248

Senate Majority Leader - bruno@senate.state.ny.us

909 LOB, Albany, NY 12247

NY Senate web site - www.senate.state.ny.us

NYS Senate, Albany, NY 12247

NY Assembly web site - www.assembly.state.ny.us

NYS Assembly, Albany, NY 12248

Family Planning Advocates - savor@fpaofny.org

FPA web site - www.fpaofny.org

People for the American Way - pfaw@pfaw.org

Kaiser Report of Reproductive Health - www.kff.org/
register (free subscription)

Emily's List - www.emilylist.org

FUMIGATING THE RIGHT

"The Republican Party is like a house that's been taken over by termites. As Presidential elections are lost, the foundation of the house is crumbling. Does the party understand the extent of the structural damage, and is it willing to have a big enough tent for moderates?"

Lynn Grefe in Weekly Standard Magazine 7/6/98

PATAKI TELLS MISSOURI: I'M NO NY LIBERAL

"I may be from NY and support abortion rights, but I'm no liberal." C.S. 2/22/99

Ed Note: Pataki has never once voted pro-choice.

NY SENATE PASSES BILL TO OUTLAW ABORTION PROCEDURE

On March 24, 1999 the Senate again passed an extremist bill 41 to 19 that would criminalize one specific abortion procedure, popularly known as 'partial birth' abortion. This bill did not specify a stage of gestation or viability of the fetus. The three new Dems voted pro-choice and the two new Republicans voted anti-choice even though they had voted for Medicaid funded abortions when in the Assembly.

FPA of NYS #6

PATAKI'S BUDGET CUTS TARGET WOMEN'S SERVICES

The Governor's 1999 prepared budget shows at least \$1.3 million in cuts to breast cancer support, rape crisis, and other services geared towards women - this despite his receiving strong voter support from women. Another \$61,000 would be cut from prior funds for Office of Domestic Violence; and family planning advocated services could be slashed by another \$1.2 from last year.

Albany Times Union, 3-9-99

JUSTICE HARRY BLACKMUN 1909 - 1999

Justice Harry Blackmun died on March 4, 1999. As the majority-decision author of *Roe V. Wade*, he will be long and gratefully remembered for establishing the legal right for women's reproductive choice. In his funeral cortege of many long black limousines was a blue volkswagon. The cops kept trying to remove it but the judge wanted the car he drove back and forth to the Court in his cortege.

BUCHANAN AND FORBES ATTACK PATAKI'S ABORTION STAND

New York's Governor stirred up a hornet's nest after describing himself as "pro-choice" (see another item this issue re his record) and proposing removal of GOP's anti-abortion plank from its platform. Forbes, reversing his year - ago support of Pataki said this stand would disqualify him as a Forbes running - mate. Buchanan predicted that "removing the anti-abortion plank would start a civil war in the G.O.P.".

Cortland Standard, 3-22-99

FAR RIGHT PREDICTS Y2K DISASTERS

Using such phrases as "world-wide chaos"; "worst time for humanity since the Noahic flood"; "Millions of American fatalities"; "financial meltdown"; the Christian far right, survivalists, and other extremists are warning that "we are facing a problem of Biblical proportions. Potentially, Y2K... [is] a dagger pointed at the heart of Western Civilization."

Among the doomsayers is Gary North, "a hard-line opponent of abortion,... who advocates imposing biblical law." Considered by some a Y2K expert North has become a guru to many extremists. Neo-nazi Aryan Nations and other such anti-government groups link their web sites to that of North who is quoted in the main stream press.

A Y2K threat may exist because of the paranoia of many such groups who, according to Robert Blitzer, FBI's chief of domestic terrorism and counter-terrorism planning, have "apocalyptic visions."

Four novels co-authored by an evangelical Christian minister and a former journalist have sold almost 3 million copies. In September the top 4 slots of best sellers by Publishers Weekly were held by these 4. "The authors say every major prophecy in Revelations has been fulfilled, and they expect the Y2K bug could set off the crisis.

Michael Barkun, a Syracuse University expert on Millennialism asserts that "since Nuclear War is really no longer out there as a terribly likely way for civilization to end, they've [the fear-mongers] got to find something else. Y2K is convenient."

Intelligence Report (Issue 92) Fall '98

ABORTION SURVEILLANCE - U.S. 1995

Since 1990 (i.e. year in which the number of abortions was highest), the annual number of abortions has decreased by 15%. The decline probably reflects the decreasing rate of unintended pregnancies; reduced access to abortion services; and changes in contraceptive practices, including an increased use of contraception, particularly an increased use of condoms among young women.

M.M.W.R. Vol. 47, No SS-2

ACTIVISTS SEEK MORE MONEY TO FIGHT PRE-MARITAL SEX

Conservatives are asking Congress to double or triple the current funding of the federal abstinence program created by the 1996 Welfare Reform bill. Aimed at discouraging sex outside of marriage, the program is being hit by both the right and left. About a dozen states have awarded grants to groups that counsel women against having an abortion, and in several states abstinence - only programs may be replacing sex education programs. South Carolina awarded all of its \$1.3 million grant to an anti-abortion group. In rural Georgia a \$5,000 grant underwrites weekly after-school meetings at the community centre which are opened by a Christian Minister or Counselor with a Christian prayer. The sponsor says the project is "Bible-based, Christ-centered,

and Holy-spirited." One Ohio anti-abortion group sponsors classes for 2,500 - 3,000 Junior-High aged kids", with one day a week of graphic medical slides showing effects of untreated venereal diseases, including untreated syphilis sores and severe genital warts". Some leaders tell students they are likely to die if they have sex outside of marriage.

Church-state issues were raised as states began receiving a total of \$50 million in fall 1997. Researchers assert that there haven't been enough scientifically validated studies of abstinence-only programs to know whether they reduce teen pregnancy, but preliminary indications are that they do not. But more than 20 studies confirm that sex education combined with contraception information does reduce teen pregnancy. Scripps Howard News Service March 11, 1999

SOME ELECTION SURPRISES

Newt was toppled, Livingston was toppled and Bill remains. When the Clintons helped candidates, their victories were far more than expected. When Newt hammered Clinton in his campaigning for various candidates, they lost big. The shrillness of the Religious Right as well as its message turned voters off even its own voters. Many elections were too close to call, so events such as Dr. Slepian's murder, motivated voters.

NARAL

Of the 114 races in which NARAL and NARAL PAC were involved, 97 were won! Congrats to NARAL!

EMILY'S LIST

E.L. contributed \$7.5 million to 57 Democratic women's campaigns. As a result there are seven new pro-choice Democratic women in the House. Remember Republicans bragging that they would add 40 seats to their House majority for a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate.

ROE V WADE LOCAL PROTESTS

In 1989-90, we typically expected 100-150 picketers at Cortland Memorial Hospital on Jan 22. In 1999, there were 14. Instead you'll find them on their web sites and on the ballots as candidates for school boards and other elected office.

GARY BAUER FOR PRESIDENT?

He heads the Family Research Council, an arch conservative group rival to the Christian Coalition. Banning abortion and a flat tax of 16% for all would be 2 of Bauer's planks. C.S. 2/1/99

A CALL FOR END TO CLINIC VIOLENCE AND A BIG WIN FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD

On the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade, NOW President Patricia Ireland issued an open letter to Wanda Frong, President of the National R.T.L. Comm.; William Cardinal Keeler, Chair of the Pro-Life Comm. of the National Confer-

ence of Catholic Bishops; Rep. Henry Hyde, Chair of the House Judiciary Comm.; and Trent Lott, Senate Majority Leader:

I appeal to you to take immediate action to end the campaign of anti-abortion terrorism that is ripping through the nation. As people who call yourselves 'pro-life', you have a moral obligation to call upon your members and supporters to turn in those among you who have committed or are planning violence.

I also call on you to show real leadership by putting an end to the Nuremberg Files Website and other hate-filled language and hit lists that litter the Internet, radio and TV airwaves and anti abortion literature.

National NOW Times, Spring 1999

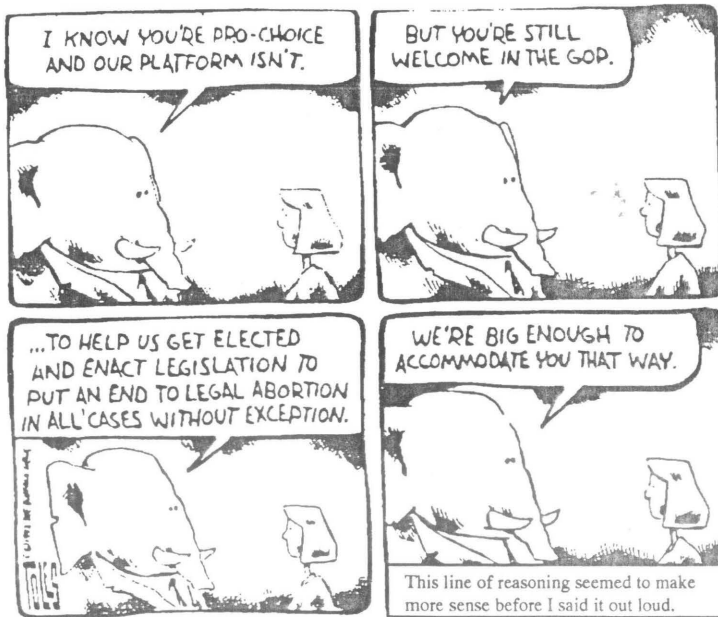
JURY AWARDS \$107 M OVER WEB SITE

Wanted posters and the Nuremberg Files web site that drips blood and lists doctors accused of 'crimes against humanity' amount to illegal threats according to a jury in Oregon. The doctors who testified said that they live in constant fear, use disguises, bodyguards and bulletproof vests and instruct their children to crouch in the bathtub if they hear gunfire. C.S. 2/3/99

PRO-CHOICE REPUBLICAN PAC RATES CANDIDATES

Fessenden 80%
Seward 80%
Boehlert 100%

Also from the GOP Majority Voice newsletter, an interesting quote from US Rep. Largent from a 4/19/98 Meet the Press, "let me just add that had we not had 26 million abortions since 1973 when Roe v Wade was passed, we wouldn't be facing the crisis in Medicare and Social Security that we are today because there would be 26 million more taxpayers out there supporting those systems. So it has fiscal consequences as well."



VIAGRA IN JAPAN

It took only six months to approve Viagra in Japan. The birth control pill has been languishing in red tape for NINE YEARS.

Central New York NOW Times 4-99

CATHOLIC HOSPITAL MERGERS TO CONTINUE BAN ON WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE SERVICES

Presenting the 1999 Catholic legislative agenda Cardinal O'Connor of New York and Albany Bishop Hubbard reaffirmed opposition to providing women's reproductive services when Catholic and non-sectarian hospitals merge. Prominent among the items is resisting legislation "which threatens the Catholic health care mission."

Insisting they have "no intention of intruding on Catholic teachings or customs" reproductive rights advocates say "their goal is simply to ensure that services now provided in community hospitals continue to be provided" after a merger. Lois Uttley of F.P.A. called for "creative solutions" such as joint operating agreements that meet the needs of both, citing that several such partnerships have been formed.

But O'Connor dismissed the idea saying there was a danger of regulations "so costly, so demanding, so harassing that ultimately the idea would be we wouldn't operate, that we would give up in frustration and discouragement". Hubbard accused "'Planned Parenthood and Family Planning Advocates and those who are rabid in their concern for reproductive freedom with pushing an agenda.'" Jo Ann Smith of F.P.A. said she is "'proud to be called rabid if it is in defense of women's rights to get services to which they are entitled.'"

Albany Times Union, 4-10-99

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$10 ☐ Other

Contributions are not tax deductible

Elizabeth Dole Faces Abortion Issue

As a possible Republican Presidential Candidate Dole vowed that she would not be drawn into "dead end debates" over a Constitutional law on abortion because "it's not going to happen." Instead, she said that Republican women can concentrate on stopping "partial-birth abortions, continue the ban on government funding, enact parental notification requirements and do everything possible to place unwanted babies with adoptive parents...."

Kate Michelman, head of NARAL, analysed Dole's stand as "having it both ways." She's opposed to a woman's right to choose but at the same time says "Don't worry because I won't support a constitutional amendment." Well, the American people don't want that in their leaders." The New York Times, 4-10-99

MORE NOVEMBER '98 ELECTION ANALYSIS

NY SENATE: 35 Republicans & 25 Democrats - A Feb election replaced Sen. Holland(R) and Nancy Lorraine Hoffman became a Republican. Five new senators took their place in January. Three were pro-choice Democrats replacing pro-choice Democrats. Two were Republicans with mixed records on choice replacing one mixed record and one pro-choice Republican.

NY ASSEMBLY: 98 Democrats & 52 Republicans - Fourteen new members are equally divided: Republican and Democrat. Most have unknown records on choice. The Democrats gained one seat in this house.

US SENATE : 55 Republicans & 45 Democrats (ratio remained the same)

US CONGRESS: 223 Republicans & 211 Democrats (net loss of 5 Republicans)

GOVERNORS RACES: 31 Republicans, 17 democrats and 2 Independents (Net loss 1 Republican).

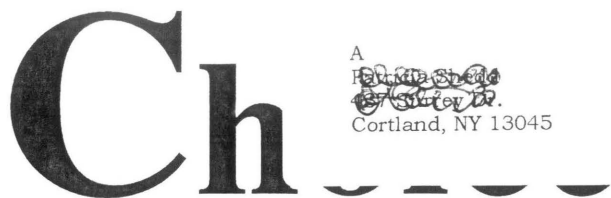
In the aftermath of the election, the pro-choice community could choose to rest on the recent victories (D'Amato out; Schumer and Boxer in.) BUT WE CAN'T. The problem is that the majority of people COULDN'T vote in 1900 and in 1998 the majority DIDN'T VOTE.

CALENDAR

- May 18 - Homer & Cortland School Board Elections
- September - Next Newsletter
- November Newsletter - Election Edition

THANKYOU

Thanks to all of our very generous contributors. This has been the best year yet! Thanks Pat, Doug and Jane.



A
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September 1999
Vol.8, Number 3

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

CLINIC ACCESS BILL PASSED

Inside this issue:

**Dole and Bush on Choice
Latest on RU-486
Abortion and Rape
Abortion/ Breast Cancer Link? Yet Again
Abortion Causes or Prevents Crime?**

HOT NEWS FROM NYS LEGISLATURE

1. In the wee hours of the morning on Aug 6, with a positive message from the Governor and a promise from the Senate, the Assembly PASSED the final version of the CLINIC ACCESS bill. Send the Governor and the legislative leadership your thanks.
2. The State Budget Increased Family Planning Funds by \$4.5 M No restrictions were imposed on a woman's right to choose abortion in NYS during this session despite well-funded opposition.
3. Contraceptive Insurance Coverage Equity Bill passed in the Assembly only.

THE PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS REVEAL THEMSELVES

George W. in the 10-22-94 Dallas Morning News "I will do everything in my power to restrict abortion." and in the same paper "...it's very important for the Republican Party to be viewed as the pro-life party." 6/12/96. On 1/14/98 he declared a "month of prayer to end abortion." This kind of compassion we can do without.

Contender Elizabeth Dole said to the NYT on 10/13/96, "I'm pro-life." According to the NY Daily News of 4/22/96 she supports a constitutional ban on abortion and Pat Robertson considers her a dear friend whom he would love to see in the White House. Remember that we may still have an anti-choice Congress in 2000.

HEADLINE NEWS ALL FROM THE CORTLAND STANDARD

3-10-99 O'Connor: Catholic Health Facilities Are Under Siege. "Other health care agencies do not have the pressures put on them by those trying virtually to drive them out of business. We insist upon maintaining our Catholic moral, medical principles." This is in response to the attempts of communities to block hospital mergers, whereby a secular and Catholic hospital merge and become Catholic; and consequently, the new entity will no longer offer birth control, abortion, infertility assistance, sterilization or a living will if that conflicts with the Church even for non Catholic patients.

4-9-99 Cardinal O'Connor, Others Blast Spitzer for Buffer Case in Buffalo

4-16-99 Judge Grants Clinic Buffer Zones in Buffalo

4-19-99 Abortion Rights Advocates, Foes Clash in Buffalo 60,000 invitations sent to antis - 200-600 showed up for weeklong demonstration at clinic, bookstores and schools to condemn teen sex and child porn.

4-20-99 Operation Save America to Move Protests to Buffalo Clinics

4-21-99 Abortion Foes Set sights on Rochester Outnumbered by opposing protesters, police and even the media, foes take their moral message to Rochester. No more than 50 protesters at each event.

4-21-99 '99 Protest without '92 Outspoken Leaders 600 arrests back in Operation Spring of Life in 1992. Original leaders refused to endorse '99 action.

4-23-99 Gays stand With Abortion Rights Activists During Operation Save America "It's not about abortion, its about choice."

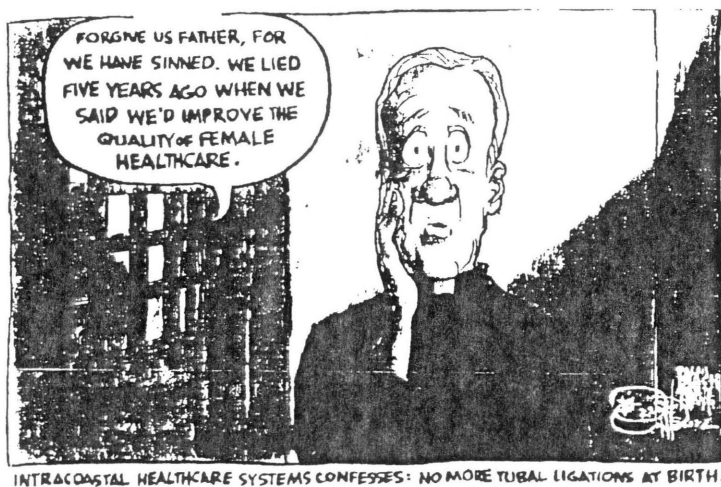
6-28-99 Community Celebrates with Colorful Parades

Randy Terry showed up at the 30th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion. The founder of Operation Rescue, shouted to folks, "If you repent, God will forgive you!" Drag queens blew him kisses.

7/17/99 Anti-Abortion Leaders Fined

A quarter million dollar fine was levied against notorious Joe Scheidler, leader of the Pro-Life Action League, his League, Operation Rescue and two other individuals. NOW sued and won this under RICO. These organizations must stop their "nationwide extortion campaign based on threats and violence" against clinics.

Editorial 7-29-99 Robert Novak said that Governor Ridge of Pennsylvania who is mildly pro-choice was considered a possible running mate for George W. He was axed from the list when a prominent Catholic archbishop gave his opinion. With the same condemnation that Cuomo had received for his stand at Notre Dame, the archbishop was clear. Ridge will not be on the ticket despite his huge victory last year, and despite Pennsylvania's balancing the ticket as a big swing state.



ABORTION AND BREAST CANCER

A huge study reported in the New England J of Medicine (1997; 336) looked at a cohort of 1.53 M women in Denmark by linking the national abortion and cancer registries. Adjusting for age, parity etc., it was found that the risk of breast cancer was identical in women with or without a history of induced abortion—even if there was more than one abortion.

LEGAL STATUS OF ABORTION CORRELATES MUCH MORE TO SAFETY THAN TO INCIDENCE

According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the research arm of Planned Parenthood, the number of abortions in the world is determined by the rate of unwanted pregnancies. In other words, the availability of abortion—the legal or non-legal status of it, is not strongly correlated to the number of abortions. So to reduce abortion rates, one does not make abortion harder to obtain but rather less necessary. As logical as this seems, the politicians making parental consent laws and "partial birth" laws don't understand.

With increased modernization, urbanization and higher levels of education for women, smaller families are increasingly desired in the world (our world population went from 2 to 6 B this century). There are about 210 million pregnancies in the world each year, 4 in 10 unplanned. Half of the unintended pregnancies are aborted—46 M. Abortion levels are high in countries where the desire for small families is strong but the contraceptive use is low or ineffective.

There may be little relationship between abortion legality and abortion incidence, but there is a strong correlation between abortion legality and abortion safety. The World Health Organization estimates that there are 78,000 deaths per year from unsafe abortions. In Latin America, as many as 21% of maternal deaths may be from unsafe (illegal) abortion.

Six in 10 women live in countries (55% in developing and 86% in developed) where abortion is permitted on broad grounds. Twenty-five percent of women (mostly in developing countries) live in countries where abortion is prohibited or allowed only to save her life.

RAPE AND PREGNANCY

There are 32,000 known pregnancies that result from rape each year in the US according to a reliable, journal entitled the STD Advisor. VOL2 #2. Also up to 66% of pregnant teens report sexual abuse.

CLINIC SAFETY BILL PASSED in NYS SENATE!

Only 4 nays were cast against this bill on 6/17/99 and Dr. Slepian's death most likely caused this lopsided vote. The Assembly had passed this in January, but the bill had died many deaths in the Senate in previous years.

Favorite Joycelyn Elders quote *"The vows of abstinence break far more easily than a condom."*

NEED A WORTHY CAUSE FOR BOYCOTT?

Wal-Mart stores have decided not to sell Emergency Contraception (EC) that was approved by the FDA last year. Known erroneously as the morning after pill, it is simply 4 high dose birth control pills, which can prevent pregnancy up to 72 hours after unprotected intercourse (rape, broken condom, etc). EC works by preventing ovulation or possibly implantation. It is being sold at Walgreen's, Rite Aid and K-Mart. One could achieve the same medication by getting an RX for one-pack of high dose birth control pills. EC is not to be confused with RU-486 which is the abortion pill, as yet not approved for use in this country despite having been used in France since 1986.

Several years ago, Wal-Mart took T-shirts off its shelves because someone complained that they expressed anti-family values. The shirts said, "This girl may be president of the United States someday."

WHY IS ABORTION AN ISSUE IN LOCAL ELECTIONS?

In county jails, there are decisions about pregnancy testing, emergency contraception and abortion for female inmates. County legislatures appoint DSS commissioners who make important decisions related to choice and birth control for their clients. They also control women's clinical services of the county health department. Local governments determine the items contained in employee benefit packages, which include health insurance and coverage for abortions.

Counties lobby on state and federal issues that can relate to reproductive health issues. Local police guard clinic access and protect employees and patients.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH RU 486?

Margaret Talbot, The New York Times, excerpted the following article from "The Little White Bombshell".

For about 10 years the effort to bring RU-486, mifepristone—the abortion pill, to the U.S. was thwarted by the antis and drug companies who refused to go near it. The

battle ground—and perhaps with a peace treaty in sight."

Indeed, because RU-486 can be administered by family practitioners in their offices, a woman does not have to go to a clinic where she may be accosted by protesters and barred by blockades. Instead, she can maintain the privacy and anonymity to which any medical patient is entitled. One OB-GYN hopes that the "pill will help get abortion back into the medical mainstream and out of this ghettoized place it's been in."

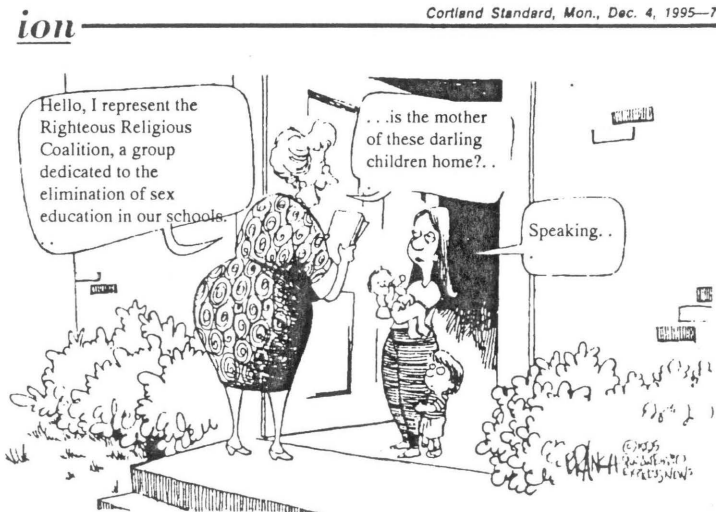
This will offer the antis new challenges as will the fact that mifepristone can be used very early in pregnancy; it has "pushed back the time at which women can get abortions back as far as the point at which sophisticated new home-pregnancy tests can first tell them they are pregnant."

Thus, with RU-486 a woman facing an unwanted pregnancy will be able to choose a non-surgical procedure, very early in her pregnancy in complete privacy. If abortions are made earlier and earlier, an important aspect of the public's acceptance according to polls, what will be the strategies of the antis to oppose the use of mifepristone? A spokesman for the radical anti-abortion group Operation Rescue West has promised that "we'll find out the names of company executives, we'll go to their neighborhoods."

Also, questions remain about F.D.A. approval, which process is very far along, and about manufacture and distribution. The Population Council has found some small manufacturers, whose names are a carefully guarded secret, who will produce mifepristone. The decision was also made to distribute the drug directly to doctors, thus by-passing the likely problem of pharmaceutical retailer's refusing to sell it, as WalMart has refused to fill prescriptions for Preven, the so-called "morning-after" pill.

But even though Congressional extremists may succeed in blocking or limiting access to RU-486, "in some ways medical abortion is already a reality," according to this writer. Doctors may use mifepristone once the F.D.A. approves in any way they choose, regardless of the label's protocol; for instance, "mifepristone, already approved for ulcer therapy... can be used as an abortifacient." In the U.S. clinical trials of 2,121 women who took mifepristone, there was a high degree of acceptance: "88 percent said they found [it] very or moderately satisfactory; 96 percent said they would recommend it to friends or relatives."

It must not be thought, however, that this medical abortion is "easy." The initial administration of mifepristone is in the doctor's office, and follows a physical examination and appropriate patient counseling. The patient then goes home and "within about 72 hours... or in some cases 48 or fewer... she will vaginally insert four tablets of a medication called misoprostol." This initiates uterine contractions, then cramping and bleeding—perhaps heavily. In about four hours the gestational sac will be expelled, and if the patient's last period has been about six weeks earlier, "the embryo will be tiny, about five millimeters, the size of a grain of rice."



French manufacturer, Roussel-Uclaf whose parent company is the German Hoechst A. G. refused to sell it here despite organized feminist pocketing, and the Pope called it "the pill of Cain" the monster that cynically kills its brothers."

Then a small, independent group, using published patents, produced enough of the drug by 1994 to supply clinics conducting research on it here. Early in the Clinton administration, pressure on the company led to its donating patent rights to the Population Council. Now a small pharmaceutical company in a long-wished for breakthrough by choice advocates, has announced plans to manufacture and market the drug for the general public by the end of this year.

RU-486 had been touted by a scientist in the 80s as "the only real discovery in fertility control since the pill." And now, according to one prediction, "the little white bombshell, manufactured in secret and taken in the privacy of the doctor's office—will leave the abortion war without a

Cortland Standard, Mon., Dec. 4, 1995—7

"Medical abortions require stamina, patience and tolerance for bleeding that will amount to more than a regular period and that may continue in diminished form for several weeks. It can cause nausea and diarrhea, and it always causes cramps—that's not even a side effect; it's the process itself." Women in this country who have tried this method say they choose it because they wanted to avoid surgery, but the fact that the medical abortion can be performed so much earlier in pregnancy is thought by some to account for its appeal. A legal scholar, Ronald Dworken, notes that "It is an almost universal conviction that abortion becomes steadily more problematic morally as a fetus develops toward infancy." But various legislative restrictions passed by states such as mandatory waiting periods, parental consent, etc. have led to abortions being performed later in pregnancy. Medical abortion leads in the opposite direction. And the availability of medical abortion in France, England and Sweden has not increased the number of abortions overall in those countries. Perhaps the future of medical abortion in the U.S. will resemble the scenario described by Cory Richards of the Alan Guttmacher Institute:

Societal attention to the availability of these new techniques could create a mandate for early pregnancy detection and intervention—a whole campaign. If you think you might be pregnant, find out early. If you want to carry it to term, get into prenatal care right away. If you don't, and you're going to terminate the pregnancy, do it early.

KOSOVO

The United Nations Population Fund shipped reproductive health supplies—including emergency contraception (EC)—for 350,000 people to Kosovo refugees in Albania. Planned Parenthood Federation also sent \$100,000 to help

displaced women and children. The Vatican criticized the UN's decision to distribute EC among raped Kosovo women refugees. News of the donations comes on the heels of a Washington Post article (4/13/99) profiling a woman who like "scores of women" were gang raped by Serbian troops herding families to Albania. Kaiser Daily Health Reports on web

ABORTION LINKED TO CRIME

Sydna Masse, a Colorado Springs Christian activist working with women prisoners discovered a high percentage of them had had abortions. She believes that "abortion can cause guilt-ridden women to commit crimes that land them in jail. If you can commit murder once, you can do it again." Another prison counselor, Myfawny Sanders says that "she never met a woman in prison who doesn't blame her incarceration partly on past abortions."

Is there supporting evidence for this? In Canada, one researcher found that the provinces with the highest abortion rate also had the highest rate on child abuse. The Washington Times states that the evidence is simply anecdotal. Vicki Saporta of the National Abortion Federation says that self destructive behaviors are influenced by many other variables which have greater impact than abortion.

Kaiser Daily Health Reports web site

ABORTION LINKED TO DECREASE IN CRIME

Equally flimsy, but interesting is the report that the crime rate has decreased since abortion has been legal because unwanted babies were not born. Studies in other countries do show that children raised by women who were denied abortions, did not do as well in school and did commit more crimes.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$10 ☐ Other

Contributions are NOT tax deductible

50% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION GROWTH WOULD BE ELIMINATED IF WE ONLY HAD ENOUGH FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES WORLDWIDE.

Dan Pelagran of the Pathfinder Organization

CALENDAR

- Oct 28 - November Newsletter—released with local election information
- Jan 22 - 27th Anniversary of Roe v Wade, the landmark decision of the Supreme Court

GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCI BEAU COUP TO:

All the volunteers who worked hard, ate good food and had fun at the potluck mailing party that put this newsletter in the mail.

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

November 1999

Vol. 8, Number 4

VOTE

and

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

November 2nd 6AM - 9PM

Highlights of this issue:

Local Election Brief Survey

EC and RU-486

6 Billion People!

Health Teachers Be Warned

"Since When Does Education In Sexual Perversion Have Any Place With Reading, Writing And 'Rithmetic'?"

Health Teachers Issued Warning.

Recently stuck into every church bulletin at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Cortland was a copy of the national Pro-Life Bulletin Board: A project of the American Life League. In this August 1999 edition, the lead story was a warning to nurses and health teachers. The National Association of School Nurses had "decided that young girls in the 4th grade are not too young to be exposed to information on their sexuality, including information about menstruation, puberty, sexual feelings and the sexual images seen in movies, on television, et cetera. Their (school nurses) argument is that girls mature faster than boys, have questions about their sexuality at a younger age and 'want to know about sexual positions'."

The editors think that this was an 'amazing decision' by the Association and that it could have a devastating effect on girls. They are concerned that nurses can't give aspirin without parental permission but could discuss these matters privately with girls. They lament that under the guise of education, the law gives nurses the right to "assault the moral attitudes we (as parents) try to instill." They call this education, 'indoctrination' and say that the teachers and nurses have become the conduits for Planned Parenthood. The editors call for action now. They advise parents to question school nurses to see if they agree with the Association's ideas. These educational duties are the exclusive rights of parents, they assert.

Ed note: The age of menarche is decreasing, TV and movies are more graphic than ever. Of course it is the parents' role to discuss sexual matters and morality with their children but some don't and some even sexually exploit their own children. Nurses and health teachers must discuss these matters and we know of none who discuss sexual positions with youngsters.

Chronicle of Anti Abortion Violence in NY

In 1986 a Manhattan clinic was bombed; three clinics were damaged by arson in Syracuse in 1990; more arson in 1993 at a Brooklyn clinic; an acid attack in Dewitt; a doctor wounded in Rochester in 1997; and a doctor murdered in Buffalo in 1998. So much for the rights of demonstrators.

VOTE!VOTE!VOTE!VOTE!VOTE!VOTE!VOTE!VOTE!VOTE!VOTE!VOTE!VOTE!VOTE!

Dr. Novella Confirmed by the NYS Senate as New Health Commissioner, Replacing Barbara DuBono

"Both the Supreme Court's Roe v Wade decision and NYS' law to protect the right to choose. I have pledged publicly my commitment to uphold and support these laws and the governor's policies. My personal opinion will not interfere with my performance of my duty." Novella also claimed to be a realist on the effectiveness of abstinence 'til marriage sex education.

WORLD POPULATION 6,000,000,000

The six billionth child was born on October 12, 1999, according to the United Nations.

Only 200 years ago, the world's population was one billion. The United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report issued this summer focuses on the impact of globalization and the gap between rich and poor. The report says that the gap has "reached grotesque proportions." The assets of the 200 richest people in the world were more than the total income of 41% of the world's people. A 1% tax on these folks would provide primary education for all those in the world who lack access.

Provide women with educational and job opportunities and the population will not grow at such a rate. Provide women with reproductive choice and access to the means of conception control. This is as critical now, as it ever was.

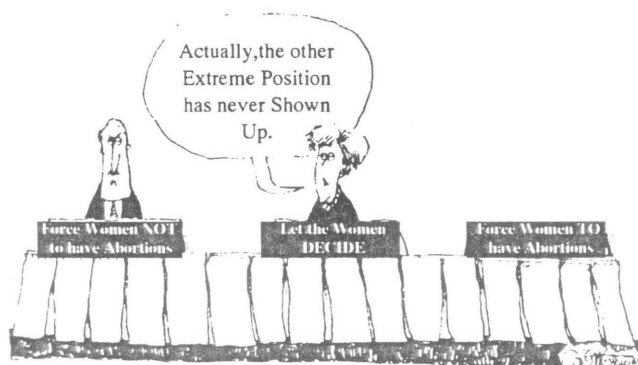
Web sites of interest for population concerns are www.sixbillionandbeyond.org, www.zpg.org, www.unfpa.org, www.earthnet.net

GEORGE W. BUSH

Have you ever wondered why mainline Republicans seeking state or federal office feel the need to declare themselves pro-choice? George Pataki and George W. have never registered a pro-choice vote in their lives. In fact, despite Bush's claim, he is on record as supporting a constitutional amendment to ban abortion, he opposes laws protecting women and doctors from violence at reproductive health care facilities, and he signed 18 anti-choice provisions into law as governor.

REPRODUCTIVE
LAW & POLICY

A T A G L A N C E



NOTE OF CLARIFICATION

When even the New York Times is confused, we needed to do a heads up explanation:

Emergency Contraception—Once known as the morning after pill, this is two doses of 2 high dose oral contraceptive pills. It can be taken up to 72 hours after unprotected intercourse (rape, broken condom, etc.) to prevent fertilization or implantation. Taking it sooner is better than waiting several days.

Food and Drug Administration has approved it marketed under the name of Preven. During the first 3 months on the market, 1.3 million packages of Preven sold.

RU-486—This is the French abortion pill, soon to be sold in this country. It can be taken within 8 weeks of a last menstrual period and it causes a non surgical abortion. Any physician can dispense this drug in the privacy of his or her own practice.

The usefulness of Preven is in the access to it through local pharmacies. That is why it is particularly distressing that Walmart pharmacies throughout the country have a policy not to fill Preven's prescriptions. In Washington, women are able to obtain this drug directly from a pharmacist who provides the medical screening. No MD is required.

U.S. YOUTH FACTS

** The US teen pregnancy rate dropped 17% since peaking in 1990. Abstinence accounts for 20% of the decrease and the use of contraceptives as well as more effective contraceptives account for 80%, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

** One in eight teen women in the US becomes pregnant each year resulting in over half a million births, two-thirds of which are unintended. Contraceptive Technology, 1998

** 14 % of teens come to a family planning clinic prior to initiating sex.

Jeopardizing Teens? Health Fact Sheet, NFPPRHA

** 36% of the teens attending came because they thought that they were pregnant. Ibid.

** On average, teens are sexually active for 11.5 months prior to seeking clinical services. Ibid.

** Half of the ten most frequently reported infections to the CDC are STDs, including the most common, chlamydia. Mertz, CDC, 1998

** At least one in three sexually active people are estimated to have contracted a STD by the age of 24. Kaiser Foundation and ASHA, 1998

WORLD WIDE FACTS

** Of the 260 million teen women (15-19) worldwide, 11% lack access to birth control.

** In most developed countries, where nearly all girls attended school, teen birthrates are generally very low. The U.S. is the notable exception, as 1 in 16 teen girls gives birth each year—the same as India, Indonesia, and Pakistan, a rate twice that of England or Canada, and 9 times as high as in the Netherlands or Japan.

Cairo+5: a Bulletin for Journalists

BIGGEST EMPLOYER COVERS BIRTH CONTROL PRESCRIPTIONS

The federal government, largest employer in the world, has for the 2nd year in a row included coverage for prescriptive contraception. THANK HEAVENS FOR VIAGRA! There was never any question that Viagra would be covered, and this fact provided an important comparative reference to the historical lack of coverage for birth control for women. Abortion, however is not covered in their plans.

EQUITY IN PRESCRIPTION INSURANCE AND CONTRACEPTION COVERAGE ACT

This was introduced on 6-10-99 in both Houses of Congress. It attempts to extend coverage to the rest of privately insured Americans. It has numerous sponsors. States have charged ahead and now 10 states require insurance companies to cover birth control.

86% of US COUNTIES HAVE NO ABORTION PROVIDERS

This is up from 84% last year who lacked a provider. Five abortion providers and clinic workers have been murdered and only 12% of all OB/GYN residencies require abortion training. This year Wisconsin tried to pass a bill that would ban teaching any abortion-related subject or procedure in the state's medical schools. Reproductive Freedom News, 10-99

SUPREME COURT? A BIG ISSUE FOR THE 2000 ELECTIONS

A few conservative appointments to the Supreme Court by a conservative president and the decades of struggle for women's basic rights to reproductive freedom will be undone.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions __\$50 __\$25 __\$20 __\$10 __Other

Contributions are NOT tax deductible

Cortland Standard

Opinion

Thursday
Aug. 10, 1996



CONGRESS TAKES A DANGEROUS PATH TO FETAL RIGHTS

Recent Republican-led legislation, approved by the House 224-201, identifies the fetus as having a separate legal status. Citing what they call "an important principle," supporters said that, in the event of a criminal attack against a pregnant woman, the bill specifies "there would be two victims." Doctors performing abortions requested by women would be excluded. But, by treating the fetus as a separate entity, abortion rights supporters recognize that opponents hope "to build a foundation for a fresh legal assault on the constitutional underpinnings of the Supreme Court's ruling on *Roe v. Wade*." Editorial, The New York Times 9-25-99

APPEALS PANEL VOIDS BAN ON ONE PROCEDURE

The first time a Federal Appeals court has heard arguments on the constitutionality of state laws banning a late-term abortion procedure (inaccurately termed "partial-birth"), it has ruled against those enacted in Arkansas, Iowa, and Nebraska. Thirty states, in all, have passed such laws. In striking down the three states' laws, the panel declared that the "statutes were so broadly written that they also banned common abortion procedures used in the second trimester and, thus, placed an "undue burden on a woman's right to end a pregnancy." The New York Times 9-25-99

Dates for Upcoming Newsletters for 2000
The first of JAN - MAY - SEPT - NOV

CALENDAR

- Jan 22 - Roe V Wade anniversary
- Jan 31 - Feb 1 - Family Planning Advocates Annual Conference in Albany

GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCİ BEAUCOUP TO:

To Pat, Doug, Andrea and all the mailing party folks. And to Jane and Pat for all the handling of finances and tending to the mailbox.



Women's Coalition

14 Clayton Ave. ❖ Cortland, NY 13045

American Association of University Women ❖ League of Women Voters
SUNY Women's Studies Committee ❖ YWCA ❖ ZONTA

1999 ELECTION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

	SHERIFF <i>835-6711</i>		MAYOR	
	Bradford	Price	Tytler	Tucker
<i>Percentage of women on your Executive Committee</i>	60%	50%	No response	100%
<i>What issue affecting women and/or children would receive your strongest support</i>	domestic violence, child abuse, sexual abuse	Violence in homes and schools	Making "deadbeat dads" support their children	abuse
<i>I support contraceptive coverage in govt. employees health insurance plans</i>	Yes	Yes	No response	No
<i>I support a woman's constitutionally guaranteed right to have an abortion</i>	Yes	No response	No response	Yes
<i>I support abortion coverage in govt. employees' health insurance plans</i>	Yes	No response	No response	No
<i>I support Medicaid funding for poor women's abortions</i>	Yes	No response	Yes	No
<i>I support spousal consent for abortion</i>	Not asked in Sheriff's race		No response	No
<i>I support a 24 hour waiting period for abortion</i>	Not asked in Sheriff's race		No response	No
<i>I support parental consent for minors' abortions</i>	Not asked in Sheriff's race		No response	No
<i>I support the right of a female inmate to obtain reproductive care including the morning after pill or an abortion</i>	Yes	No response	Not asked	Not asked
<i>I support affirmative action</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>I support safe access for patients to abortion services</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>I support the ban on assault weapons</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>I support an increase in the minimum wage</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

January 2000
Vol. 9, Number 1



JANUARY IS ANNUAL RENEWAL MONTH

1999 IN REVIEW—NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

1. Clinic Access Bill passed; it increases penalties for those who harass clinic patients or staff or block access to reproductive health clinics. Our Senator Seward (758-9005) worked for the passage of this bill and he co-sponsored an earlier version.
2. Family Planning dollars increased by \$4.5 million, \$3 m. of which is federal TANF (welfare reform) money, typically underspent by NYS.
3. Assemblyman Marty Luster (277-8030) supported these important pieces and helped stop legislation that would restrict access to abortion.
4. NY remains one of the few states without onerous abortion restrictions on women such as parental notification, mandated time delays or biased counseling.

ARE PRO-LIFERS PRO-LIFE, PRO-CHILD?

And conversely are Pro-choicers anti-child? In an article by Katha Pollett in the Nov 15th issue of The Nation, a correlation is shown between the availability of abortion and the social concern for children's well being. "The fifty nations that permit abortion regardless of a woman's reason for wanting one include countries with the world's most extensive social provisions for children. The anti-choice camp is full of countries with astronomical infant mortality rates, no free schooling and no commitment to poor kids." Anti-choice nations are usually pro capital punishment.

Pollett cites the research of Jean Ruth Schroedel, political scientist at Claremont Graduate University who does a similar study of state's policies in her forthcoming book, Is the Fetus a Person?

"Is there a relationship between the abortion laws of a given state and the status of women?" YES! "The lower the woman's status—measured by educational levels, ratio of female to male earnings, percentage of women in poverty, percentage of female legislators, and state mandates for insurance companies to cover minimum hospital stays after childbirth—the more stringent the abortion laws." This is the same as the global pattern.

Anti-choice states were far less likely to support its neediest children, spending less on foster care, the adoption of children with special needs or children's education. Schroedel found no support for the antiabortion claim that opposition to abortion is all about

caring for kids. For example in 6 of the strictest anti-choice states, it is not a crime for a third party to kill a fetus—but drug users can be charged with murder if the pregnancy goes wrong.

Summarized by Polly Rothstein

FAMILY PLANNING ADVOCATES (FPA) MERGER WATCH SUCCESS

Hospitals across the state are merging in an effort to save money. Often these mergers involve a Catholic and a private hospital and result in one Catholic hospital with no reproductive health services as previously provided by the private hospital. Foundation funds have helped FPA help communities save these services. They succeeded in Niagara Falls and Batavia, where coalitions prevented a merger. Major concessions were won in Long Island and work goes on in Gloversville.

THE WAR ON FREEDOM OF CHOICE RAGES ON

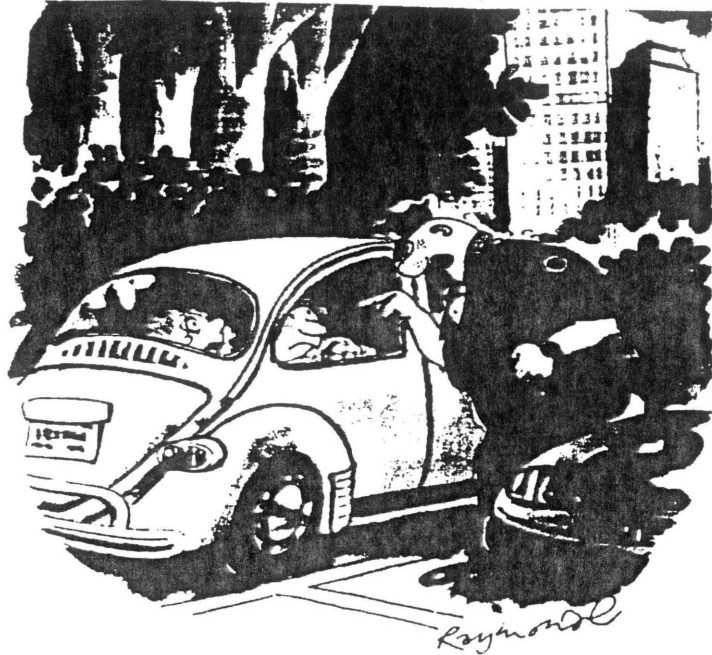
This January, family planning clinics around the state received warnings from the State Police to be on the lookout for letters with a certain return address for they might contain the deadly anthrax virus.

Chili and El Salvador are the only 2 countries that ban abortion even if the mother's life is at stake. Last year, El Salvador amended their constitution to recognize life at the moment of conception. The fetal life comes first.

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION— STILL BEST KEPT SECRET

The Kaiser Family Foundation has a wonderful choice web site. Their recent research found that only 11% of women are aware of Emergency Contraception (EC) and only 1% has used it. EC comes packaged as Preven. A problem is that MDs do not tell their patients about EC. One reporter for the Washington Post posed the following questions:

- Why don't clinicians tell women that they can make their own emergency contraceptives with a pack of birth control pills?
- Why don't clinicians provide a dose of EC to all patients?
- Why don't drug companies include EC instructions on each pill packet?



"Hear me, and hear me good, kid. Unroll the condom all the way to the base of the erect penis, taking care to expel the air from the reservoir at the tip by squeezing between the forefinger and thumb..."

NO ERECTION WITHOUT PROTECTION!

If it weren't for the impotence drug, Viagra, those advocating insurance coverage for contraceptives would not have such a strong argument. If insurance companies pay for Viagra, if they pay to maintain the erections, then they had better pay to maintain the protections. Yet, we heard from a physician that "for men, Viagra is a necessity: you're dealing with a major function in a man's life—while birth control for women—well, that's a CHOICE."

This is an equity issue. Two thirds of the childbearing women in the US depend on private insurance plans. 49% of the large insurance companies do not cover contraceptives. Insurance companies say that this coverage will drive up costs? Did Viagra? How much does an IUD cost compared to a birth?

Nine states passed contraceptive equity laws in 1999. There is federal legislation proposed as well.

ELECTION 2000

To win the White House, the Republicans must mobilize those hard-core voting blocks of right wingers. If they succeed with these extremist voters, reproductive rights could be in serious trouble. If Republicans continue to hold the House and Senate, the Supreme Court could be packed with anti-choice judges in the coming years. We barely know how the Court survived those Reagan-Bush years. Since 1995, Congressional Republicans proposed 131 attacks on reproductive freedoms. The future is bleak.

When George W. Bush was asked about members he might add to the Supreme Court, he praised Justice Scalia, the most anti-choice on the bench. Bush is considered the most anti-choice governor in the nation, having signed 18 restrictive bills. The president of the Texas Right to Life praises Bush for "going out of his way" for his organization each time they asked for his assistance with a bill. He has even helped them raise funds.

NEW CDC ABORTION STATISTICS SHOW DECREASE

The number of abortions in 1997 is down 3% from the previous year. This is the lowest in 20 years. One-fifth of all abortions were provided to those less than 19 years of age and 13% were for 20-24 year olds. Most were for white and unmarried women. Most (88%) were first trimester abortions. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention suggests a number of factors for the decline including the lack of availability of abortion, the decrease in sexual activity among teens, the increased use of birth control, the decrease in unwanted pregnancy and the "shift in moral attitudes towards abortion." Pro-choice leaders would be pleased if there was, in fact, less need for abortions but suggest that terrorism and harassment contributed to this decline.

RIGHT WING INVESTMENT FUNDS BLOCK CONTRACEPTIVE RESEARCH

The latest strategy in the right-wing camp is to scare corporations away from RU-486 and contraceptive research. Aquinas Funds claimed credit for stopping major pharmaceuticals from bringing mifepristone (RU-486) to the US. This fund is an arm of the Catholic Foundation and uses church investment guidelines. See "the Truth about 'Socially Responsible' Funds" in Med. Econ. 7-15-96

Aquinas CEO obtained promises from 6 pharmaceutical companies not to produce or distribute RU-486. He also takes credit for convincing Chase Manhattan Bank to stop contributing to Planned Parenthood

In the 1960s and 1970s there were 9 major pharmaceuticals involved in contraceptive research, now only 2 remain—Ortho of J&J and Wyeth of Am. Home Products. Aquinas had these two in its portfolio. In Commercial Appeal (6-10-96) an article title tells it all, "Aquinas buys into 'bad boys' to change them."

Other similar funds have sprung up including the Timothy Fund (fundamentalist Christian mutual fund) and the Catholic Values Investment Fund. The Timothy Fund will not invest in insurance companies that cover abortions.

Despite these attempts to stop RU-486, we will see it this year.

NO ABORTIONS FOR MISS AMERICA

For a brief moment Miss America officials considered abandoning the pledge from contestants that they have never been married or pregnant. In other words, they need to be the virgin ideal. The change was made to comply with anti-discrimination laws and is now being decided by the courts after a bit of an uproar.

NEARLY 2/3s OF NEW YORKERS SAY THEY WOULD SUPPORT A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE COVERAGE REGARDLESS OF COST AS A RIGHT OF CITIZENSHIP.

PLEASE RENEW

CHRISTIAN COALITION'S (CC) INFLUENCE WANES

Republican House leaders have begun channeling resources to other right wing grass roots organizations as the CC is less able to deliver the voters and is "mired with debt." The Nat'l Republican Congressional Committee gave a quarter of a million to the Nat'l Right to Life Committee and a half a million to the US Family Network. Pat Robertson still thinks that he can deliver his church network because of the voter guides the CC distributes.

POLLS

Lowest level of support (51%) for keeping abortion legal was given by 276,000 freshman on 470 campuses in a 1998 survey. A 1996 Gallop Poll found that the more education the woman had, the more pro-choice she was.

PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY NEWSPEAK

In the Eagle Forum's newsletter, Schlafly translates words from the resolutions of the Nat'l Education Association into her own language:

- Reproductive freedom—abortion funded by taxpayers
- Confidential—without parental knowledge
- ERA—feminist amendment which failed in 1982; intended to add abortion funding and gay rights to constitution
- Diversity—teaching the gay/lesbian agenda
- Multiculturalism—teaching that every other culture is superior to Western Judeo-Christian one.
- Affirmative action—preferential hiring of designated minorities, gays and lesbians.
- Diverse role models—openly gay teachers

CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE EQUITY NEEDED

Fewer than half of all private health insurance plans include contraceptive coverage. This means that women get second class health insurance and many are forced to choose between the month's bills and the month's pills.

FPA Albany Memo, Fall/99

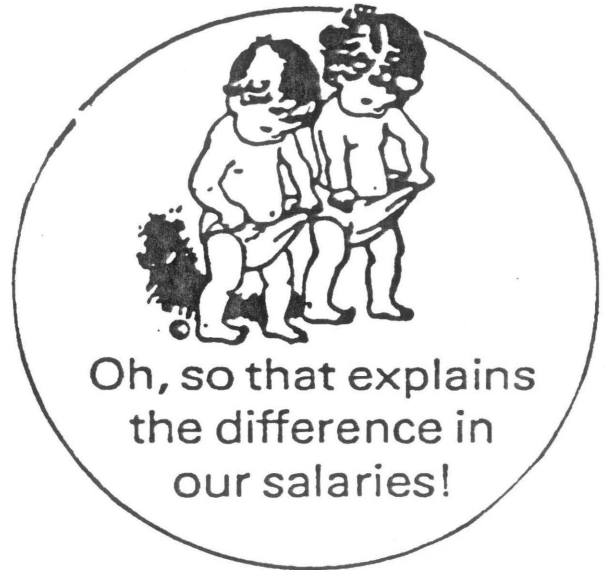
MOSTLY POOR WOMEN PAY HIGH COST OF U.N. DUES

It is both sad and revealing to recognize that women around the world paid the price of increased risk to their health so that the U.S. would not lose its U.N. seat for non-payment of dues. This is how it all came about:

- In 1984, at a U.N. Population Conference in Mexico City, then President Ronald Reagan ordered that the U.S. would no longer support overseas governmental or non-governmental organizations that performed or promoted abortion as a method of family planning, even if using their own money.
- In 1993 President Clinton reversed that order, and in the three years after the Republicans won control of Congress, it has tried to reinstate the order, holding hostage the payment of dues to the U.N.
- President Clinton, in December, rather than losing our seat at the U.N., finally surrendered to the antis demand, and our dues went forward (not in their entirety, however).

Ironically, by cutting access to family planning services, the U.S. is undermining the most effective means of reducing abortion: more women abroad, particularly poor women, will be forced to seek unsafe abortions at a high cost to their lives and health.

Reproductive Freedom News, 1/00



WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND THE YEAR OF 6 BILLION

In our delirium about the millenium, we may have missed a number of even greater significance than the year 2000: the fact that, by U.N. estimates, on October 12, 1999 the number of people on earth reached 6 billion. For the 3 billion women and girls, reproductive rights are an essential component of human rights, as most, world-wide, do not enjoy reproductive autonomy. A test of such autonomy may be found in answers to the following:

Is every act of sex consensual?

Is every pregnancy and child wanted?

Is every delivery safe?

Women, world-wide have identified reproductive health as a major concern in their lives, not to be separated from such other needs as education and other health concerns. Women's reproductive health needs require necessary services:

- Family planning
- Maternal and child health care
- Treatment and prevention of STD's, including HIV/AIDS, infertility and cancers of the reproductive system
- Access to safe, affordable abortion services
- Efforts to abandon harmful traditional practices including female genital mutilation, child marriage, forced marriage, wife inheritance
- Programs to address and eliminate violence against women
- Efforts to foster a tolerant society in which human sexuality can be expressed freely

You may communicate your support for women's rights and health by writing to appropriate government agencies and officials, organizations that promote women's rights, and letters to the editor about the importance of women's rights and the need for reproductive freedom.

Fast Facts Behind the Year of 6 Billion

- Of the estimated 960 million people world-wide who are illiterate, nearly two-thirds are women
- Globally, 60% of all those living in poverty are women and girls
- One-third of all women of reproductive age in low-and-middle income countries do not have access to a range of modern, safe, and acceptable family planning methods
- Each year, 2 million girls and women are at risk of female genital mutilation
- 200 million women world-wide are estimated to become pregnant each year, but 75 million of those pregnancies are unplanned
- Each day, the equivalent of 4 jumbo jets full of women will die from pregnancy-related causes, 99 percent of them in low-income countries

CRLP 9/15/99

ITALIANS DIVIDED OVER ABORTION FOR 13-YEAR OLD

After it was learned that a 13-year-old retarded girl in Sicily was pregnant, her state-appointed guardian recommended that she have an abortion. Despite the presumed secrecy regarding "Laura's" situation, the news leaked out and a local priest, Rev. Oreste Benzi, led a battle to overturn the recommendation. The family, who reportedly favored the abortion, identified the father as a 14-year-old playmate, also retarded. But the doctor's recommendation unleashed a fury, which included Father Benzi, and the Rev. Gino Concetti, a columnist for the Vatican daily newspaper who described the prospect of an abortion as "the return of the horrors of Nazi Germany." Equally strong reactions came from abortion rights activists. Just before a judge's decision in Laura's case, Father Benzi released a letter to the judge he said was written by Laura. Father Benzi's advocacy raised the question about whether the girl, who has the mental capacity of a six-year-old, could have written the letter without help. It said: "Dear Judge: I want my baby. Don't let my baby die. Let my baby grow. I beg of you. Save me." The judge ruled that Laura's pregnancy should not be ended.

The New York Times 12-17-99

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please note that contributions are not tax deductible.

Contributions \$50 \$25 \$20 \$10 Other

ROE AT RISK

"America's pro-choice majority got a wake-up call on October 21, when only 51 senators voted to affirm Roe v. Wade," In a non-binding resolution offered by Sen. Tom Harkin (Dem. Iowa) 47 senators indicated they would, if they had the opportunity, overturn Roe v. Wade, thus eliminating reproductive freedom. Since Republicans took control of Congress in '95, 131 votes have been taken regarding women's reproductive freedom, and the antis won 115 of them. Sen. Rick Santorum (Rep. PA) has led the fight to ban certain abortion procedures to be used any time during pregnancy. The Santorum ban, like numerous state laws, allows for no exceptions to protect the health of the mother, basic in R.v.W. The House has twice overridden the President's veto, and based on the most recent Santorum vote, the Senate is only two votes shy of the 67 they need to override.

Emily's List, 12-99

GEORGE W— DESPITE COMPASSIONATE CONSERVATISM...

According To the Kaiser Daily Health Reports, George W. Bush signed 18 legislative measures to limit abortion and state family planning funding while governor of Texas. This year he signed a 48-hour wait law and one that would prohibit the use of state family planning money to pay the direct or indirect costs of abortion. (Ed: Does this mean the counseling costs?) In past years he signed a bill to prevent the use of state family planning funds for prescription contraceptives to minors without parental consent and one that required abstinence sex education without requiring information on contraception.

MCCAIN ON CHOICE

Kaiser also reports that the National Right to Life Committee and South Carolina RTL are running ads urging pro-life SC voters not to vote for McCain because of his quote to the San Francisco Chronicle on Aug 19. "In a short term, or even in the long term, I would not support the repeal of Roe v. Wade." McCain said that these ads were false attacks funded with soft money and he suggested that they were in response to his campaign finance reform proposal. RTL said, "No, hard money financed the ads."

McCain sees himself as somewhat of a maverick within the Republican Party with the job of softening the "sharp edges." He did retreat from the "short term, long term..." quote after drawing the ire of the antis. He favors abortion restrictions and the ban on "partial birth" abortions but his Christian Coalition rating has been slipping in recent years.

CALENDAR

Jan 22 The 27th anniversary of Roe v Wade

Jan 31-Feb 1 Family Planning Advocates Annual Conference

March 7 NYS Primary Election for Presidential Candidates

PLEASE RENEW

Choice


Cortland, NY 13045

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

May 2000
Vol.9, Number 2

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

THE CHOICE IS YOURS—VOTE TO KEEP IT THAT WAY

VOTE IN THE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

MAY 15 POLLING HOURS ARE NOON TO 9:00PM

OPERATION RESCUE FOUNDER LEAVES HIS CHURCH AND FAMILY

According to Randall Terry's pastor, Dan Little of the Church at Pierce Creek, Terry has left his wife and children and wants a divorce or annulment. Pastor Dan noted the signs of Terry's "spiritual deterioration" several years ago with "his lack of purity of speech and lifestyle. . . . Many of Randall's longtime friends have made use of the full orb of godly counsel, from loving kindness to rebuke." These efforts "have been vilified, slandered, defamed, and denounced by him."

Terry's church censured him in November for:

1. leaving his wife, 2. "a pattern of repeated sinful relationships with both single and married women. . . ." 3. threatening to sue the church 4. sending out a fund raising letter that says, "I know that you believe what I believe."

His church admonishes him to cease his fund raising until "such time as his public persona and his true manner of living are known to be the same." He has ignored this plea, "announced possible plans to run for US Senate, is storming the gates of the homosexual agenda in Vermont, is selling his donor list, and is engaged in yet another fund raiser."

VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT OF CLINICS WHERE ABORTIONS ARE PROVIDED

STATE LEGISLATURE PASSED HEALTH CARE REFORM ACT—HCRA

Medicaid coverage will be expanded to some New Yorkers whose income is less than 150% of the federal poverty level. Funded in part by the increased cigarette tax, this legislation will cover family planning and abortion despite a heavy lobbying effort to the contrary. Up to one million more New Yorkers will be covered.

This legislation will also assist self employed individuals obtain affordable health insurance and subsidize insurance premiums for small businesses to offer basic health coverage to employees. This bill goes into effect January 2001.

Family Planning Advocates had pushed for a 250% poverty limit for family planning, abortion and prenatal care services. Currently, you have to have gotten pregnant while on Medicaid to be eligible for an expanded Medicaid Program (called F-PEP) and that coverage is for 2 years only. Source: FPA Update

NYS ASSEMBLY TO BE CONGRATULATED

WOW! In the Assembly budget are additional funds for the Medicaid expansion of family planning services for persons up to 200% of poverty and for pre-natal care up to 250%. There is also an extra \$2.5 million for family planning. Other funds added to the Governor's budget proposal

include additional money for AIDS, school based clinics, and rape crisis centers.

Summary of Life Threatening Incidents 1988-1998

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	2	7
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	2	0	1	8	1	1	1	1	15
Bombings	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	6	1	15
Arson	5	8	10	8	19	12	11	14	3	7	4	101
Attempted Arson/ Bombings	3	2	3	1	13	7	3	1	4	3	5	45

Statistics from the National Abortion Federation

VOTE

RECORD MONEY SPENT TO LOBBY FOR HCRA

The 3-31-00 Cortland Standard reported that a hospital workers union and a hospital association spent more than \$10 M lobbying on the \$9 billion HCRA bill, about 5 times more than has ever been spent on lobbying a single issue in NY state. A total of \$71.9 M was spent on all lobbying of the NYS legislature last year.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON CHOICE

Gore—NARAL has endorsed Gore on 2-15-00 noting that he has “stood strong time and time again to defend a woman’s right to choose. . . .”

Bush—Anti-choice voting record, believes the legal thinking behind Roe v Wade is thin, and favors overturning the decision. He wants the Republican platform to support a constitutional amendment banning abortion.

IF YOU DON’T SUPPORT ABORTION, AT LEAST SUPPORT PREVENTION

This year’s state budget (late again) shows that the governor has again proposed a cut in family planning monies. Last year \$19.8 M was finally appropriated for this purpose; this year Pataki proposed \$18.3 M (this is the 1995 level).

FAREWELL TO SOME CHOICE NEWSLETTERS

We are especially sad when our newsletter to other choice organizations comes back undelivered because the PO box is closed or addressee unknown. We are sure that these folks are putting their energies into other causes but we miss them all the same.

Particularly missed are the two Binghamton papers: HERA and Body Politic. The latter had the most extensive research on local terrorist, Randy Terry as well as nationwide coverage. When Dr. Gunn was murdered in Florida, they were at the memorial service. They did in-depth interviews with many leaders of the movement. They connected the dots in their analyses—anti government, anti women, anti-Semitic, anti-black and anti-choice.

We miss HERA’s news of events, the news analysis that gave us that “fumerist” perspective, video drone etc.

US SENATE RACE

Both HR Clinton and Mayor Giuliani are pro choice. Both have been invited as guest speakers to NARAL’s annual event commemorating the anniversary of Roe V Wade.

In 1998, pro-choice Senator Chuck Schumer defeated anti-choice D’Amato, largely on the strength of the gender gap. Women favored him 3 to 2. This year in this race, choice will not be as relevant. The Conservative Party chair, Michael Long, wants Giuliani to at least support the ban on late term abortions and Giuliani refuses to do so. No Repub-

lican has won a statewide election without the backing of the Conservative Party.

HRC says that abortion should be a litmus test for a Supreme Court appointment. She said if elected, she could not imagine voting to confirm a judge who is on record as opposing Roe v. Wade.

Cortland Standard 1-22-00 and 2-8-00

50,000 WOMEN A YEAR “IMPORTED” TO U.S.

According to the CIA (as reported on NPR on 4-2-00), 50,000 women are brought into this country each year (mostly from Asia) under the pretenses that they will get jobs as shop clerks and nannies. But they are then forced to work as prostitutes, sweatshop workers, and are sometimes sold as slaves.

Amnesty International (A.I.) held its annual meeting in Providence, RI on March 10-12th with the theme of defending women’s human rights. The U.S. is the only western nation that refuses to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). One hundred and sixty-five other countries have ratified it. The U.N. estimates that in 1999 “4 million women have been trafficked for sexual purposes, and that profits to criminal groups from this trade are \$7 billion annually.” There are few or no penalties for this trafficking. AI is pressing the US to sign the convention.

“Fauziya Kassindja fled her homeland of Togo to escape being subjected to female genital mutilation. She spent more than 16 months in detention before being granted asylum in an important landmark decision. . . .” according to the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies at UC Hastings College of Law. Amnesty International reports the case of a 20-year of Ugandan woman arriving in the U.S. without proper documentation. After a brief stay in a detention center, she was sent to a maximum security prison. When she began to cry uncontrollably out of fear, she was stripped and three male guards injected her with sedatives while they handcuffed her legs and arms to a cot.

ROE AT RISK AGAIN

In April 2000, “the Supreme Court will hear Carhart v. Stenberg, a case that dismantles the very foundations of choice. Two previous major decisions, Webster and Casey, have severely undercut women’s freedom to choose abortion. Will it be three strikes and we’re out?”

In the Carhart case, the Court will hear a Nebraska law banning the so-called partial-birth abortion procedure. At stake are “three long standing legal principles: the primacy of women’s health throughout pregnancy; a physician’s right to use his or her own medical judgment; and the status of the freedom of choice as a fundamental right.”

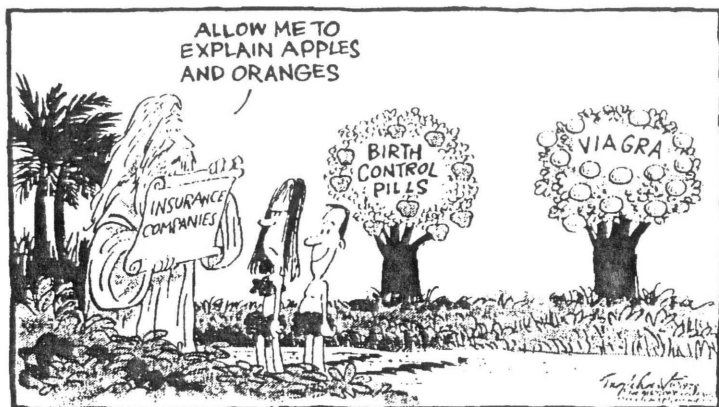
“The authors of bans on ‘partial birth abortions’ refuse to 1) specify a real medical procedure, 2) include exceptions for a woman’s health, or 3) recognize a woman’s constitutional right to choose abortion before fetal viability.”
Tompkins Co Planned Parenthood newsletter, Choice

THE "WHICH COSTS MORE?" DEPT.

A year's supply of birth control pills or the birth of a baby?

A dose of emergency contraception in the hospital or the birth of a baby conceived through rape?

A year's supply of birth control pills or a year's supply of Viagra?



WHEW! THE WOMEN'S HEALTH & WELLNESS ACT

In January, with a large bipartisan majority, the Assembly approved this bill that requires health insurers to cover:

- contraceptive drugs and devices
- annual mammograms for people over 40 years of age
- cervical cytology screenings
- osteoporosis screening and treatment

BUT the Senate must also act on this. Call Senator Seward today.

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATORS:

- Rep. Maurice Hinchey, 2431 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515, (607) 273-1388, MHinchey@mail.house.gov
- Rep. Amory Houghton, 1110 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515, 1-800-562-7431
- Rep. Sherwood Boehlert, Rep.Boehlert@mail.house.gov
- Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, 464 Russell SOB, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202) 224-4451, Senator@dpm.senate.gov
- Senator Charles Schumer, 229 Dirksen SOB, Washington, D.C. 20510, (202)224-6542
- Senator James L. Seward, 307 LOB, Albany, NY 12247, (607) 272-4806, seward@senate.state.ny.us
- Senator John R. Kuhl, 310 LOB, Albany, NY 12247, (607) 776-4111, kuhl@senate.state.ny.us
- Assemblymember Marty Luster, 526 LOB, Albany, NY 12248, (607) 277-8030, lusterm@assembly.state.ny.us
- Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Rm 932 LOB, Albany, NY 12248, (515) 455-3791
- Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno, Rm 909 LOB Albany, NY 12248, (518) 455-3191

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE—STRONG NYS LOBBY

The Cortland Standard of 3-29-00 reported on the Catholic lobby day which had taken place the day before.

The Bishops Hubbard and Mansell said that they "will challenge legislative proposals that require health care facilities to provide services that are at odds with Catholic beliefs." Hubbard said "the state should collaborate with, rather than obstruct, the efforts of religious organizations to help New Yorkers obtain health care, quality education and needed human services." Catholic health care providers do not want to provide birth control, infertility treatments or the morning after pill to rape victims even if the patients are not Catholic—40% of the state's population is Catholic.

In Cortland, the ONLY HMO provider of care to Medicaid patients is Fidelis, a Catholic health care agency. It is difficult for local Medicaid patients to get clear information from Fidelis regarding the lack of these services.

The Conference was asking for an additional \$5.8 million in education funds for Catholic and private schools in order to meet the new standards. The chair of the Assembly Ed Committee, Steven Sanders responded that state funds do not go beyond the narrow categories of transportation and special education. The state cannot underwrite the cost of tuition for private and religious schools said Sanders.

EDITORIAL—DR. LAURA SCHLESSINGER

This rude and arrogant syndicated columnist, radio and soon-to-be TV talk show hostess is filled with fire and brimstone. Recently she incited her audience to put major pressure on the Vermont legislature to block the domestic partnership act. And in February, she took on Planned Parenthood for informing people that some pharmacists (at Wal-Mart, for instance) do not provide the double dose of 2 days' worth of birth control pills known as emergency contraceptive (EC). So in an emergency—if a condom broke or in the case of rape—just ask your practitioner to give you an Rx for a pack of pills. And ask the manufacturers of the pills to put EC instructions on the package.

EC BILL IN THE SENATE

Senator Nick Spano, the Republican from Westchester who became pro-choice around 1992 as a result of many lobbying efforts on the part of the Westchester pro choice coalition, plans to introduce a bill mandating that hospital emergency rooms offer rape victims EC to prevent pregnancy. Susan John will sponsor the bill in the Assembly.

PREVIOUS RACES WHERE MONEY DID NOT BUY A VICTORY

Michael Huffington outspent Dianne Feinstein and lost. Oliver North outspent Charles Robb and lost. D'Amato outspent Schumer and lost—all pro-choice victors.

CONNECTICUT PASSES PILL BILL

This state joins GA, MD., ME., and VT. in requiring health insurance companies to cover all FDA approved contraceptive prescriptions if policies pay for other Rx's. Hooray for the Republican Governor John Rowland who signed it into law.

CORTLAND'S NEWEST ASSEMBLYMAN, GARY FINCH (R) VOTE ON CHOICE

He voted as his predecessor, Dan Fessenden, voted on the Medicaid Abortion bill on 3-15-00. The bill to ban Medicaid funded abortions was defeated 96-46 in the Assembly. *Thanks Gary.*

ELECTION FORECAST

If we wake up on November 8th to find an anti-choice president in office and if the new Congress remains anti-choice, here are some possible results:

A new domestic gag rule—federally funded family planning clinics could not provide abortion information to patients who ask, even if their lives depended on that information.

The cutting or elimination of funding for international family planning programs.

New restrictions on various abortion procedures, like the ones that President Clinton has vetoed.

Less funding for national family planning and teen pregnancy prevention programs.

Key governmental positions (e.g. secretary of health and surgeon general) filled by anti-choice persons.

More abstinence-only monies distributed. No research shows this approach works.

2-3 anti-choice Supreme Court justices appointed.

CALENDAR

**5-15-00 School Board elections

**9-9-00 Meet the Candidates Brunch — Holiday Inn.

Tickets from the YWCA

**9-12-00 Primary Day

**11-7-00 Election Day

THANKS

Thanks to the choice volunteers who do such a good job getting out the mailings.

GEORGE MICHAEL'S PROFILE IN COURAGE

George Michaels stood up on the floor of the state Assembly 30 years ago this April and cast one of the most important votes in American History. His was the vote which opened the door to safe, legal abortion in New York State. New York's experience led the way to Roe v. Wade three years later.

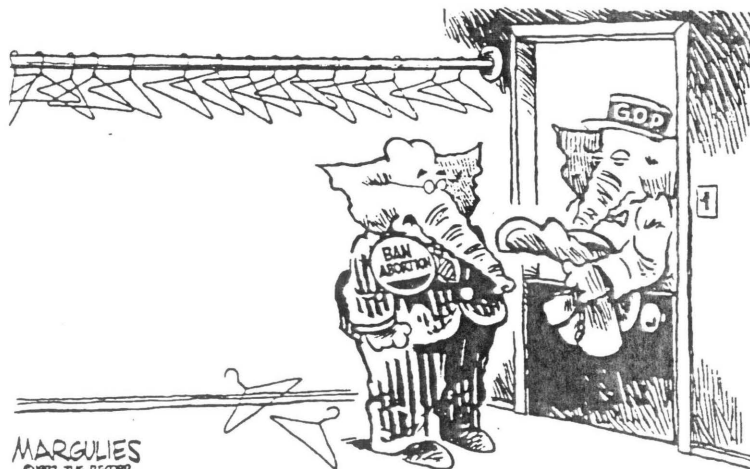
Many other women and men, inside and outside of government, fought hard to legalize abortion, and they deserve our undying appreciation.

But it was George Michaels who stood up and cast the deciding vote, knowing as he did so that he was ending his political career. The former World War II Marine Corps officer explained: "What's the use of getting elected, or reelected, if you don't stand for something?"

Michaels was elected to the state Assembly from Auburn in 1960, the year John F. Kennedy brought a new spirit and excitement to political life. Ten years later, Michaels etched his own Profile in Courage into history.

Source: *Family Planning Advocates*

Cortland Standard, Mon., Aug. 17, 1992



Newsletter/Membership Form

**NEVER THINK THAT WE ARE TOO SMALL TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE • KEEP INFORMED**

***I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who
also support that right. (*Contributions are not tax deductible)***

Signature _____

Contribution: \$50 ___ \$25 ___ \$20 ___ \$10 ___

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice • P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

September 2000
Vol.9, Number 3

MEET THE CANDIDATES

September 9th

9:00 to 11:00 AM

Holiday Inn — 2 River Street, Cortland

WOMEN'S COALITION SPONSORS CANDIDATE FORUM

The Holiday Inn, instead of the Country Club, will be the site of the 9th biennial Meet the Candidate Brunch. This brunch will be held at 11:00 AM.

Since 1984, the Women's Coalition, consisting of the YWCA, AAUW, ZONTA, the League of Women Voter's and the Women's Studies Committee of SUCC, have held these events. Usually 100-150 people attend; this year at the new location there will be room for up to 200. Tickets are available at the YWCA front desk or from members of any of the groups.

All candidates for national and state offices have been invited. A major push through the local parties is being made to insure that Senate candidates Clinton and Lazio attend. Call the YWCA at 753-9851 for tickets and more information.

NYS SENATE TAKES CARE OF PROSTATE, NEGLECTS CONTRACEPTIVES

More insurance companies cover Viagra than contraceptives. This pattern continued in the State Senate this spring, despite great pressure from many individuals and 80 groups. They again failed to take action on a bill to expand health insurance coverage for contraception, breast and cervical cancer screening and osteoporosis. Instead the Senate Republicans announced a task force to STUDY the issue, then, incredibly, turned around and passed a bill, without any study, mandating additional insurance coverage for prostate cancer screening. We need both. Please write to Senators Bonacic, sponsor of the bill and Bruno, majority leader or call 1-888-894-4652.

FPA Update 6/23/00

Quote of Alex Sanger, grandson of Margaret:

Your body does not stop at the navel—neither should your health insurance.

GREAT NEWS ELSEWHERE IN THE STATE BUDGET

The final budget passed the state legislature in May with an expansion of family planning services to low income families. This great victory guarantees free family planning services to those whose incomes are below 200% of the poverty level. NY follows California's lead in providing such coverage. Fifty percent of Medicaid is usually financed by the Feds., the state pays 25% and the county also pays 25%. Only family planning health care services are financed at the 90% level by the Feds., thus indicating the priority and cost effectiveness of these services. There will be no cost to the county for this expansion and there should be great benefit.

The Governor's \$1.5m cut in the family planning budget was restored, and more was added for a total of \$21.3m in state funds and \$10m in federal TANF funds. School based clinics and rape crisis programs also received additional funding in the final budget.

FPA Update 6/23/00

PLANNED PARENTHOOD GOES TO COURT OVER BIRTH CONTROL BIAS

Employees of a drugstore chain filed a class action suit in Seattle, in July. It claimed that male employees get their basic health care needs met by the company plan, but contraceptives that are central to women's health care are not covered. Women must pay an additional \$300 out of pocket costs each year for oral contraceptives. Planned Parenthood charges that excluding contraceptives from the drug coverage plan unjustly discriminates against women.

Since 1998, 13 states have passed laws requiring that private insurance plans that pay for prescription drugs must also include contraceptives. The equity in Prescriptive Contraceptive Coverage Act has been stalled in Congress since 1997 according to the NY Times.

DiversityInc.com

SOUTHERN BAPTISTS AFFIRM MALE PREROGATIVE

Once again, women's place on earth is defined at a recent Southern Baptist convention. Their wording goes something like this—Although spiritual gifts are not limited by gender, leadership is restricted to men according to scriptural dictates. The wife should submit graciously to the “servant leadership” of her husband. At the same time, the Baptists opposed homosexuality and abortion but affirmed the family.



VERMONT PASSES CIVIL UNION LAW

Gays and lesbians in Vermont now are able to have their relationships recognized by the law. Other states, including NY appear to be following suit.

BIGGEST ISSUE IN NOVEMBER ELECTION

Julian Bond of the NAACP spoke of his greatest concern in the upcoming election on the 7-26-00 Diane Rehm's Show. “Consider having two Justice Thomases and two Justice Scalias—they represent the far right position and yet they are George W. Bush's most admired justices.”

Pro-Choice organizations see the Supreme Court appointments by the next president as absolutely critical to the cause. The last choice decision hung narrowly by a 5 to 4 vote.

“I WANNA VOTE FOR NADER BUT I GOTTA VOTE FOR GORE”

In 1996, it was safe to vote for Green party presidential candidate, Ralph Nader because Robert Dole was sufficiently behind Clinton in the poles. This is not the case in 2000, argues Katha Pollitt in The Nation (7-24-00). The

Nader vote could, if properly massed in key states, swing the election to Bush. “. . . it doesn't bode well for reproductive rights, affirmative action, the Violence Against Women Act, public schools, church-state separation, gun control, labor rights, the environment and a host of other issues on which the Democrats are marginally or significantly better.”

“No one can safely predict that the next President will be a one-termer, or that all pro-Roe justices will last till 2004, much less 2008—Stevens is 80, O'Connor is 70, and she and Ginsburg (67) both have been treated for cancer”

Pollitt says that Nader is being irresponsible to say that there is no difference between Bush and Gore. “Nader should acknowledge that four years of Bush will be rough. There will be losses. . . and those losses will be disproportionately visited on the usual suspects: women, minorities, public school kids, gays, the underprivileged.”

RU-486 VICTORY

On July 10, the House of Representatives closely rejected (187-182) Rep. Tom Coburn's (R—OK) Amendment to the House Agriculture Appropriations bill that would have prohibited the FDA from testing, researching, developing, or approving any drug that induces an abortion. In the past 2 years, Coburn was successful with this bill. Our Congressman James Walsh did not vote pro-choice on this bill. Responsible Choices Action Network

ANOTHER VICTORY

All abortion restriction bills were soundly defeated in the NYS Assembly this year. The proposal to deny Medicaid funding for poor women's abortion failed by the largest margin ever, 97-47. NY remains one of the few states in the nation with no abortion restriction laws on the books. This takes a strong grass roots effort to accomplish. The state's Family Planning Advocates (FPA) led this.

SEXUAL ASSAULT REFORM ACT PASSES

This bill will give added protection to victims of sexual molestation and increase penalties for perpetrators, but in a serious omission, it includes no provision for emergency contraception in hospital emergency rooms. According to a NARAL/NY survey of hospitals, over half do not offer emergency contraception (EC) to rape survivors brought to their emergency rooms. Less than a quarter of the Catholic-affiliated hospitals—the fastest growing segment of the hospital industry—provide EC.

NARAL/NY and FPA Update 6-23-00

LAZIO VS. CLINTON

H.R. Clinton strongly supports a woman's right to choose. NARAL gave Lazio only a 56% rating on his Choice voting record in Congress in 1998. He also voted to deny choice to low income women via denial of Medicaid funding

Meet The Candidates Brunch



When: Saturday, September 9, 2000

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Where: Cortland Holiday Inn, 2 River Street
(exit 11 off Interstate 81)

Who: Candidates for National and State Offices
Tickets \$12.50

Sponsored by the Women's Coalition of Cortland

For Tickets, contact: The American Association of University Women
Cortland League of Women Voters
SUNY Cortland Women's Studies Committee

YWCA
ZONTA

For more information, call the Cortland YWCA at 753-9651 or stop in at 14 Clayton Ave

CELEBRATING VOICES—NEW Central NY FEMINIST LITERARY MAGAZINE

Welcome to this artsy and literate feminist magazine out of Binghamton. For those who enjoyed HERA, the previous Binghamton Women's Center newsletter, Celebrating Voices is a replacement by many of the same folks. Always high quality writing and very interesting points of view, contact the: Women's Center, POBox 354 Binghamton NY 13902.

TWO BUMPER STICKERS

I HAVE A UTERUS AND I VOTE

(This was a favorite of Rose Ann Brooks, SUNY Cortland Sociologist, now deceased)

GOD IS SHORT FOR GODDESS

HOW TO EXPLAIN PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION TO FOLKS THAT USUALLY SUPPORT CHOICE BUT FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT THIS PROCEDURE.

The Right to Life folks and their supporters in Congress have been most effective in describing and depicting this abortion procedure as 'partial birth.' Here are some of the reasons why a physician might choose to use this method which is correctly called an "intact D & X procedure." The woman, who is the patient here, is more at risk from a late term abortion. A D & X may be her safest choice because there is less blood loss, less chance of uterine laceration and there could be a fetal autopsy to determine the cause of the anomaly.



GOP ANTI-ABORTION PLATFORM PLANK—WILL IT BE CHANGED?

The Republican Pro-Choice Coalition now has a national organization with Lynn Grefe as its director. She formerly directed the NY Chapter but now is creating chapters in other states using NY as a model.

Lynn Grefe is leading the fight to change the Platform, which calls for a constitutional amendment to ban all abortion (without exception), and calls for the appointment of anti-choice judges. A January survey conducted by American Viewpoint demonstrated that 65% of Republican voters want to change the anti-abortion part of the platform.

Ed. Note: Unfortunately, the planks remain after the Republican Convention.

NAME THE PERSON WHO:

Voted against Medicaid funding for poor women's abortions.
Voted for restrictions on young women's access to abortion.
Voted against the right of a woman in the military, stationed overseas, to obtain an abortion even with her own money.
Will not state whether he would vote to confirm Supreme Court Justices who are committed to overturning Roe v. Wade.
NYTimes 5-25-00

You're correct if you answered Rick Lazio.

NAME THE PERSON WHO IS RUNNING FOR THE US SENATE AS A PRO-CHOICE CANDIDATE:

You're correct again if you answered Rick Lazio. So what DOES pro-choice mean? Recall that the US Senate last October voted 51-47 in favor of a nonbinding resolution supporting Roe v. Wade. The 47 opponents included 44 Republicans. Senators Schumer and Moynihan both voted with us.

PROJECT VOTE SMART

The website is www.vote-smart.org and the hot line is 1-888-Vote Smart. This is an excellent source of information on all the candidates' positions on many issues of importance.

NOT AN INFREQUENT STATEMENT TO THOSE IN THE FIELD

"I always thought that I was against abortion but now I need your help to find a good doctor for my daughter."

VOTE

THE SUPREME COURT AND THE NEBRASKA CASE:

WHY A CHOICE SUPPORTER CALLED IT A CAUSE FOR "CHAMPAGNE AND SHIVERS"

First, the "champagne"; American women won a major victory on June 28th when the Supreme Court ruled, by 5-4, that the government cannot prohibit doctors from performing a procedure, (called by abortion opponents "parital-birth" abortion), because it may be the most medically appropriate way of terminating certain pregnancies. The Nebraska law, as well as that of 29 other states which had enacted laws banning such abortions, was declared unconstitutional, and unacceptable as well, since it contains no exception for the health of the pregnant woman. The court voted as follows: For the Majority: Breyer; Ginsberg; O'Connor; Souter; Stevens. For the Dissent: Kennedy; Rhenquist; Scalia; Thomas

The New York Times, 06-29-00

The Nebraska case came through the lower courts on a challenge by Dr. Leroy Carhart, only one of three doctors in the state known to perform abortions. Since filing his lawsuit, Carhart, his family, and property have been subjected to anonymous threats of physical violence and abuse. His barn was burned down and 17 horses were killed in the fire. His dog and cat were also killed.

The Cortland Standard, 06-29-00

Now for the "shivers": This victory, however sweet, reveals by the 5-4 vote that the reproductive choice of American women now hangs by a slender thread, a single Supreme Court vote. At this same time, abortion opponents have already written a new, more specific legislation, designed to overcome or circumvent the Court's objection to the vagueness of the Nebraska law they examined.

Unless women recognize the gravity of this threat to their right to choose, November's presidential election will mean a return to the days of back-alley abortions. It is abundantly clear that the next president will appoint two, three, and possibly four Supreme Court justices to replace those retiring during the next presidential term of office. If George W. Bush is elected he has promised to appoint only those candidates to the Court who are committed to the overturn of Roe v. Wade, thus ending women's Constitutional right to abortion. And not coincidentally by any means, is the Congressional voting record of Dick Cheney, the Republican nominee for Vice-President: as a Representative, he voted against every piece of pro-choice legislation offered during his term, and in favor of every piece of anti-choice legislation. On the other hand, Vice-President Al Gore, the Democratic candidate for President, has repeated, again and again, his pledge of support for women's reproductive freedom.

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR! DON'T LOOK BACK

WITH REGRET ON NOV 8TH SAYING "WHY

DIDN'T I VOTE OR WORK ON THE

CAMPAIGN TO PRESERVE CHOICE?"

CALENDAR

• • Sep 9 - Meet the Candidates Brunch at the Holiday Inn, 11:00AM. Tickets available at the YWCA
PLEASE purchase before Sept 1, 2000

• • Sep 12 - Primaries, PLEASE VOTE

• • Sep 15 - National Clinic Escort Appreciation Day sponsored by the National Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

• • Oct 7 - Last day to register to vote in November election

• • Nov 7 - Election Day, Again PLEASE VOTE

GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

Pot Luckers—We thank you one and all for coming together with such good humor and willingness to get this newsletter to our public. Thanks also to the writers and editors! We admire your fortitude. This cause remains, after all the years since Roe, a critical issue for women and it does not go away. In fact, we have never had such an anti-choice US Senate or House.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions __\$50 __\$25 __\$20 __\$10 __Other

Contributions are NOT tax deductible

Presidential Election Determined by a KISS?

VOTE November 7, 2000

Polls Open 6AM — PM

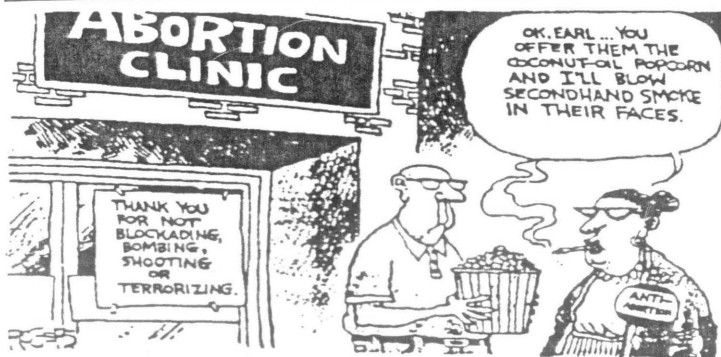
THE KISS

"It's all due to the kiss.... Will the entire fate of the election—and perhaps the western world itself—be decided, according to the experts, by one kiss?" That's the latest brilliant explanation for the gender gap showing that women support Gore over Bush. It's not because he is clearly pro-choice, that he supports pay equity, the family medical leave, hate crime legislation, gun control, a clean environment and quality educational improvements. Oh, no, it was that wet kiss planted on his wife's lips at the Democratic Convention.

Recall that the Republicans ran Dan Quayle because he was cute and would get the women's vote. When will women be taken seriously?

Women Leaders Online 9/24/00

DON'T LOOK BACK ON NOVEMBER 8th AND SAY,
"WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE TO PREVENT THE
ELECTION OF THIS ANTI-CHOICE CANDIDATE?"



COURTING DISASTER

The most recent Supreme Court vote on Roe v Wade was too close for comfort—5 for and 4 against. The stakes for choice are extremely high in these presidential and senatorial elections. Other individual and civil rights are also at risk if the Republican Party appoints and confirms the majority on the Supreme Court for the next 20–40 years.

ELECTION WEB SITES

1. [www. iVillage.com/election/](http://www.iVillage.com/election/) This site does a side by side comparison of the voting records and statements of the presidential candidates.
2. web.lexis-nexis.com/congcomp This looks at financial information, voting records and bios for congressional candidates.
3. [www. Vote-smart.org](http://www.Vote-smart.org) National and state voting information on the candidates.
4. [www. Democrats.com](http://www.Democrats.com) A little humor here. Note the Kenny Awards named after Ken Starr.

WHAT WAS MISSING AT THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION?

We missed Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and the lot. We missed the anti-abortion rhetoric. We instead saw diversity and compassion. Such a change! They have learned that anti-choice positions do not win elections. Pataki and Lazio know that. You cannot win, at least in NYS unless you profess to be pro-choice, even if your voting record shows the opposite, as did our Governor's.

IT'S THE PLATFORM, STUPID

The 2000 Republican Platform, the same on the abortion issue as in 1996, would ban all abortions without exception, by declaring that "the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed," and specifying the appointment of judges who oppose abortion.

A majority of Americans do not support this statement but do support abortion in various situations. If the platform had an exception allowing abortion in the case of rape or incest, that would admit that this fundamental right to life is not fundamental. This is clearly a predicament for the GOP.

BIRTH CONTROL—PART OF RX PLAN FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Unfortunately, that's in Westchester County, not Cortland. According to their County Executive Andy Spano, "this coverage is long overdue. It's become increasingly important that we recognize the specific needs of our female workers and provide them with the services they seek." Women pay 68% more out of pocket medical costs compared to men and reproductive health care needs is one of the reasons why.

Summer 2000 ProChoice newsletter of
Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion

THE US SENATE IS 3 PERSONS AWAY FROM VOTING ANTI ROE V WADE

Lazio claims to be pro-choice but his voting record reveals otherwise. He opposed Medicaid funding for abortion and supported the ban on a late term abortion procedure which might be the safest means to save a woman's life.

Surely he would vote to confirm Bush's anti-choice appointments to the Supreme Court if Bush were elected. Recall the non-binding resolution in the Senate last October that Roe was "an important constitutional right that should not be overturned." It barely passed 51 to 47.

NASTY MAIL

The Emergency Committee to Stop Hillary Rodham Clinton consists of Ed Meese (former Attorney General), Robert Dornan (former US Congressman) and Alan Keyes among other not so notables. Their mission—raise \$9 M in 60 days to defeat her ultra-left political agenda. With this money they will do 15 "powerful" TV ads; print newspaper ads about her "key role in the major" White House scandals; reach 9 M voters with a "fact" sheet; and do phone banking against her.

This letter exposes Clinton's true goal—to be President of the United States! Not only that, she is "an angry woman who is abusive to White House staff and obsessed with imposing her radical left vision on the rest of America." Further sins include the fact that she defended Bobby Seale while she was in law school; was close to radicals, Saul

Alinsky and Carl Oglesby in the 1960s; she chaired the "far-left" Legal Services Corporation; and was a board member of the Children's Defense Fund.

This campaign was not originated in or is it based in NY. Carpet-baggers must be at work here.

AS WE GO TO PRESS

We do not know the status of the funding in the Federal budget for Title X, the Family Planning grant. Clinton requested \$274 M and Congress has funded the program at last year's level of \$239 M. despite the fact that for many women, family planning clinics remain their only source of medical care. Despite the fact that the number of uninsured is on the rise again. Despite the fact that inflation affects health care costs increase faster than inflation.

Consider the fact that Congress increased spending by \$80 M for programs to promote abstinence until marriage, "programs that are forbidden to discuss contraception," according to Marilyn Keefe of the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association. She asserts that these are strange priorities given the decreasing rates of teen and unintended pregnancies among all women (the U.S. had had the highest rate among developed countries of unintended pregnancies among all women—51%).

Congress is also dragging its feet on the Equity in Prescription Insurance and Contraceptive Coverage Act. Rhode Island was the 13th state to pass a law to further gender equity by requiring private insurance coverage of contraception.

STUDENTS NOT LEARNING THE BASICS ON AIDS

A study reported in the 9-26-00 Cortland Standard found that parents want their children to learn more about birth control and safer sex than they currently do. A great struggle is taking place in schools around the country—abstinence only vs. abstinence plus curricula. The Abstinence Only folks argue that you are giving a double message if you teach abstinence and contraception, so you must not discuss birth control or condoms as disease prevention. The Abstinence Plus people say that kids need this knowledge—some right now and others latter.

The Kaiser Family Foundation, non-profit health researchers, reported that 97% of the parents want their children to know how to deal with sexual assault; 59% of the students say that they have learned this in class. Ninety percent of the parents want their children educated about birth control; 80% of the kids report that they have been.

Other research distributed with this study shows declining rates of sexual activity and unintended pregnancy among teens. However, 4 million teens are infected with a sexually transmitted disease each year, and half of all sexually active teens don't use condoms in their most recent sexual encounter.

STUDENTS. . . continued

Recall the local ZAP funded research done by Craig Little, SUNY professor of Sociology and Anthropology. The level of sexual activity reported in 1996 among Cortland County 8th graders was 25% . The same survey done in 1998 showed a decrease to 18% and in 2000 the percent dropped to 11.

Those more sexually active youngsters in 1996 are perhaps, the teen moms and dads of 1997–2000. Hopefully, the drop in sexual activity will bring fewer teen pregnancies and STDs in the years to come.

RU-486—AT LONG LAST!!!

With the long-awaited approval of RU-486 on September 29th, American women will finally have a non-surgical alternative for ending an unplanned pregnancy. For the past decade the drug known as Mifepristone, has been used by 500,000 European women with 95% effectiveness. But it has taken 20 years to reach the U.S. consumer:

1980-Mifepristone synthesized by a French researcher.

1982-Mifepristone tested in France as pill to prevent pregnancy, also found to induce abortion.

1983-F.D.A. issues testing permit for clinical trials to the Population Council, a family planning group.

1984-Clinical trials begin at the University of Southern California.

1986-Mifepristone 1st used in France. deGaulle calls it the "moral property of women."

1988-Mifepristone manufacturer declines to market it in U.S.

1989-The F.D.A. bans importation of mifepristone for personal use.

1990-Federal scientists tell Congressional panel that import ban has hindered their testing of mifepristone for other uses, including cancer treatment.

Jul 1, 1992-The drug is seized at Kennedy from an American woman who sought to import it for personal use. A law suit is filed to end the import ban.

Jul 18, 1992-The Supreme Court refuses to hear the case or end the ban.

Jan 22, 1993-President Clinton lifts the ban and directs the Department of Health and Human Services to review ways to test, license and manufacture mifepristone.

May 1994-Roussel Uclaf (European manufacturer) donates its patent on drug to the Population Council, which will try to find a manufacturer and distributor, and apply to have it marketed in the U.S.

Oct 28, 1994-Clinical trials that eventually involve 2100 women begin at the University of California, San Francisco.

1995-A small group of investors established the Danco Group to distribute the drug.

Mar 31, 1996-The Population Council applies to the F.D.A. for approval of mifepristone.

Sep 18, 1996-F.D.A. gives conditional approval of mifepristone but asks for more information about the drug's manufacture and labelling.

Sep 1999-Danco Laboratories submits data to the F.D.A. seeking approval. The agency has additional questions.

Sep 29, 2000-The F.D.A. gives mifepristone final marketing approval

By 1988, only France and China had approved the drug. Since then, 14 more countries have approved it: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Israel, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. It is used by women who are no more than seven weeks pregnant, commonly producing side effects similar to those of a natural miscarriage. Doctors who currently do not perform abortions will be able to use RU-486, thus improving access, particularly for rural women. Allowing American doctors to provide such services will make it harder for anti-abortion groups to harass both patients and doctors; and women will now have the protection and privacy of their physician's office if they seek to terminate a pregnancy.

The New York Times. 09/29/00

BUT WAIT. . .

NPR's Morning Edition on 10/11/00 reported that the drug used in conjunction with Mifepristone is in jeopardy. This drug, manufactured by Searle, (Cytotec or Mistoprostal) is used to cause uterine contractions which is not the FDA approved use of the drug. Searle wrote a letter to hospitals and physicians warning of uterine rupture. One half of the teaching hospitals have pulled the drug from use on their maternity floors. Cytotec is very commonly used to induce labor.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR RU-486?

Despite the twenty years it took, and despite the many roadblocks set in its way, it now looks as if the drug will be available to American women within a month. But the cheering may be short-lived since, quite predictably, the anti-choice forces have already been at work finding ways to restrict or ban the drug. Two members of Congress have introduced legislation, under guise of the "need to assure the drug's safety for American women" which would seriously limit its availability. Further, some states' laws already restrict abortion with requirements so rigid, that few doctors could meet them: detailed requirements for the design of offices and clinics; a specified distance from a hospital; some states require that fetal remains be examined by a doctor; in North Dakota, the remains must be cremated, incinerated or buried.

Do recognize that should restrictive legislation, passed (or even banned) by Congress, come to the president's desk for his signature, a pro-choice chief executive would surely veto it. Because George W. Bush has issued a statement calling the F.D.A.'s decision "wrong," there can be no doubt how he would treat legislation restricting or banning the drug's use.

**PLEASE VOTE NOVEMBER 7TH
and bring a friend to VOTE, too.**

"DUBYA'S LEADERSHIP IN TEXAS

Research about the state of Texas under the governorship of George W. Bush reveals how the state ranks:

- *50th in women with health insurance (Institute for Women's Policy Research)
- *50th in teachers' salaries and benefits (National Education Association)
- *49th in spending for the environment
- *48th in teen pregnancy rates (Annie E. Casey Foundation)
- *48th in per capita funding for public health (Dept Health and Human Services -DHHS)
- *48th in best place to raise children (Children's Rights Council)
- *47th in delivery of social services (DHHS)
- *46th in high school completion rate (Dept of Education)
- *45th in child support collection (Census Bureau)
- *45th in mothers receiving pre-natal care (Children's Rights Council)
- *43rd for women living in poverty (Institute for Women's Policy Research)
- *1st percentage children living without health insurance (Census Bureau)
- *1st in executions (National Association of Insurance Commissioners)
- *1st in chemical accidents (Sierra Club)
- *1st in smog days (Houston)-(Sierra Club)
- *1st in poorest counties (Census Bureau)
- *2nd in percentage of population without health insurance (Census Bureau)
- *2nd for children living in poverty (Census Bureau)
- *5th highest teen birth rate (DHHS)
- *Only one accredited child care center per 2637 children

Emily's List Sept. 2000

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions __\$50 __\$25 __\$20 __\$10 __Other

Contributions are NOT tax deductible

CATHOLICS FOR CONTRACEPTION

The facts tell the story: "Catholics and Contraception" is a new publication outlining the latest statistics about Catholic support in the United States for international family planning assistance and the availability and use of modern methods of contraception. "Catholics for Contraception," an initiative of Catholics for Free Choice, is an awareness campaign by Catholics who support public funding for family planning and a change in the church's position on contraception. For a copy of this brochure contact:

Catholics for Contraception
1436 U Street, NW, Suite 301
Washington, D.C. 20009

or e-mail CFFC@Catholicsforchoice.org
www.catholicsforchoice.org
Central New York NOW Times, Sept, 2000

STILL ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY PILL

"An emergency contraceptive that can prevent pregnancy if taken within 72 hours after intercourse is now being marketed. Named PLAN B (as in, If Plan A — the usual means of preventing pregnancy fails, try Plan B)." Groups in several states expect to provide the F.D.A. approved pill to women who have not first seen a doctor, as is the case in the state of Washington. There, in about 13% of the state's pharmacies, a woman who requests the prescription of a pharmacist, saying that she needs the prescription drug immediately, is ushered into a privat cubicle, counseled and given the pill.

"Women who want to find a pharmacy near them need only call 1-888-not-2-late
or visit the web site: not-2-late.com

Public health groups in other states are testing programs to make emergency contraceptives available to women without requiring them to see a doctor. The pill has been found to reduce, dramatically, the nausea that accompanies the high dosages of hormones which comprised the old 'morning after' pill, and which was never an actual product.

The New York Times, October 8, 2000

Dates for Upcoming Newsletters for 2001
The first of JAN - MAY - SEPT - NOV

CALENDAR

- Jan 22 - Roe V Wade anniversary
- Jan 29 - 30 - Family Planning Advocates Annual Conference in Albany

GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCİ BEAUCOUP TO:

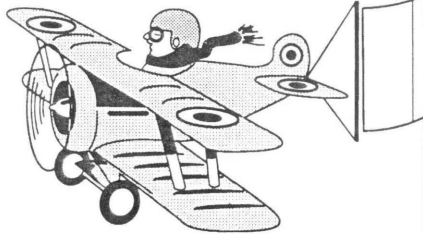
To Pat, Doug, Andrea and all the mailing party folks. And to Jane and Pat for all the handling of finances and tending to the mailbox.

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

January 2001
Vol. 10, Number 1



JANUARY IS ANNUAL RENEWAL MONTH

ELECTION 2000 ANALYSIS—STATE

The NY Senate is unchanged from last year with regard to the numbers from each party:

36 Republicans

25 Democrats

There is a pick-up of one pro-choice vote in the Senate.

The new Assembly has 99 Democrats and 51 Republicans with a pick-up about 2 pro-choice votes.

ELECTION ANALYSIS—FEDERAL

Gush won; Bore lost. And Nader goofed on Choice and has since recanted. However, Ralph must be from the "Show Me" state because before the election, he maintained that there was no difference between the two candidates. He insisted that a Bush win would not endanger reproductive rights. He told Sam Donaldson that even if Roe is overturned, "it just reverts back to the states." Fourteen states would immediately criminalize abortion if this happened. (Kaiser Family Foundation Daily Report).

There are now four new pro-choice Democratic women in the US Senate. Three took incumbent Republican seats, according to Emily's List. This sure tied things up. In the House, there are 41 Democratic Congresswomen—an all-time high. Emily contributed \$10.8 M to these races in 2000, this is up from \$2.7 M in 1998. With the 2002 election there will be reapportionment which, traditionally, creates many open Congressional seats. Emily's List could help put more pro-choice Democratic women into office in 2002. Check them out: www.emilyslist.org

PRESIDENT BUSH, YOU HAVE SOME SUPREME CHOICES TO MAKE

We brace for the onslaught of the conservative politics of big money and big business as George W. Bush takes the reins. And Ralph, you said there would be no difference between Gore and Bush! Bill is rushing to make peace in Israel and George is pre-fouling our nest by plotting war with Saddam Haasan and appointing Gale Norton as Secretary to the Dept. of Interior. Norton was a protege of James Watt!

W's appointment for the position of Attorney General is extremely troubling for women, African Americans and the Pro-choice majority in this country. John Ashcroft, who lost his Senate seat to a dead guy, will face Senate hearings and will have to defend his very anti-choice position. While in the Senate, he was one of the fiercest opponents of abortion rights and one of the most vocal Christian conservatives in public life, according to Molly Ivins. He defended and accepted an award from the American Life League, a radical right wing group opposed to ALL abortions. He received an honorary degree at Bob Jones University and his acceptance speech was troubling. In it he praised Confederate heroes and thanked Jesus for Bob Jones University. This is the university that did not allow inter-racial dating until recently. The AG plays a crucial role in enforcing the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE). How will Ashcroft stand behind laws that he so vigorously opposes?

Several years ago Janet Reno immediately sent federal marshals to Cortland and all family planning clinics to help them beef up their security after the murders of family planning clinic staff in Brookline, MA.

This is now a moot point with Chavez's withdrawal but here is her history:

Dept of Labor secretary designee, Linda Chavez, served with former President Ronald Reagan. She doesn't believe in affirmative action, an increase in the minimum wage, the glass ceiling, sexual harassment (she says that we are a "nation of crybabies") or the ADA ("special treatment in the name of accommodating the disabled.") She founded the Center for Equal Opportunity, a conservative think tank that researches race and ethnicity issues and defends English only education. As for family friendly workplaces, she has said that it "may be good business" for employers to discriminate against workers who refuse overtime. Men are the targets of witch-hunts in sexual harassment cases, she says. Chavez criticized World Cup soccer champion, Michelle Akers for supporting a federal Equal Pay Initiative.

And recall that George himself "won" the election with the well-funded backing of the National Right to Life Committee and Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition.

MANY ISSUES!

NOW MORE THAN EVER—WRITE LETTERS

Write to the editor and elected officials and speak up at social events about your political views. Anyone can write a letter. Keep stamped envelopes and paper handy. Don't let them get away with statements that you do not agree with. Here are some writing tips:

1. KEEP THE LETTER SHORT (150 WORDS)
2. RESPOND QUICKLY.
3. ONLY ONE TOPIC PER LETTER AND STATE IT IN 1ST SENTENCE.
4. FAX OR EMAIL IS QUICKEST.

State Web sites

Governor "<http://www.state.ny.us/governor/>
www.state.ny.us/governor/

Assembly "<http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/>
www.assembly.state.ny.us

NY Senate "<http://www.senate.state.ny.us/>
www.senate.state.ny.us

Phone number to track the status of NYS bills: 1-800-342-9860

Federal e-mails

Senator Schumer: senator@schumer.senate.gov

Representative Walsh: "<mailto:rep.james.walsh@mail.house.gov>"
rep.james.walsh@mail.house.gov

A QUIZ (From Responsible Choices E-mail Network)

1. What percent of Congress consistently votes to protect your right to choose abortion? a. 100% b. 65% c. 32% d. 15%
2. What percent of counties in the United States have an abortion provider? a. 100% b. 65% c. 39% d. 16%
3. What percent of insurance policies cover birth control?
a. 100% b. 60% c. 33% d. 10%
4. Congress spent \$50M on abstinence only sex education in 1997. How much did it spend that same year for comprehensive sex education to provide information on birth control and AIDS prevention? a. \$50 M b. \$35 M c. \$15M d. 0

ANSWERS 1-c, 2-d, 3-c, 4-d

MIFEPREX—A Medical, Not Surgical Abortion

Mifeprex is the early option abortion pill. It is NOT the morning after pill. It is NOT emergency contraception. These latter two are the same name for a high dose of birth control pills that can be taken within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse.

Mifeprex is another name for RU-486 and it is the non-surgical option for ending an unwanted pregnancy up to 49 days from the first day of the last menstrual cycle. The Food and Drug Administration recently approved it. On November 20, 2000 it was put on the market in this country.

It works by blocking progesterone, a hormone necessary to sustain a pregnancy. When followed by the oral prostaglandin, misoprostol, Mifeprex ends pregnancy. It has been 92-95% effective. Bleeding and cramping are a normal part of the process. There may be nausea, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness and fatigue as side effects.

Book Review: Protect and Defend

By Richard North Patterson

Alfred A. Knopf -Publisher

This recent novel needs to be read by anyone who has any interest in the topic of abortion. Patterson, a prize-winning author of ten prior novels, six of which have been international best sellers, is eminently qualified to have undertaken the task of writing a novel on this explosive issue. Having been a trial lawyer and having served as an assistant attorney general in Ohio and as the SEC's liaison with the Watergate special prosecutor, the author has an insider's knowledge of the workings of law, politics, and politicians. He currently serves on the boards of Common Cause, the Family Violence Prevention Fund, and Ohio Wesleyan University.

Patterson's stunning achievement is notable for its sensitive and compassionate awareness, as the fearful conflict between devout Catholic parents and their fifteen year-old pregnant daughter comes to a head. When the parents refuse to consent to an abortion of her hydrocephalic fetus, one feels the terrible dilemma of those who have a life-long and deep-seated belief in the sanctity of all life; the desperation of their child's condition is intensified when doctors tell her that her future ability to bear children will likely be jeopardized if she does not have the abortion.

A young, Kennedyesque president, members of Congress, and far-right extremists become involved as this very believable and moving drama unfolds. The writer has prepared a carefully researched and crafted work, which, while defining the legal issues, shows us the human anguish often overshadowed by noisy partisans on either side. The riveting, can't-put-it-down novel has received praise from such respected figures as Senator Barbara Boxer, Allen Dershowitz and Archibald Cox; former NY State Governor Mario Cuomo wrote that:

"I would tell people to read Protect and Defend if they like political novels. But I would add that they should buy it, study it, and keep it if they want an exhaustive and gripping discussion of the powerful human realities of late-term abortion and parental consent. Through his brilliantly conceived and expertly wrought narrative of the trial, Richard North Patterson has described those issues with unequalled lucidity and vividness."

Beg, borrow, or buy a copy. You won't regret it!!!

HISTORIC U.S. SENATE VICTORIES FOR WOMEN

Five Republican senators lost their seats in the 2000 election and three of them—anti-choice Sen. Spencer Abraham, John Ashcroft, and Slade Gordon—will be replaced with pro-choice women. This historic election brings a total number of women in the senate to an all-time high of 13 (ten Democrats and three Republicans).

PROCHOICE HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON SQUASHED ANTI CHOICE LAZIO

Lazio outspent her by \$10 million but Clinton won, and won big!! HRC won by 800,000 votes according to Morning Edition of NPR on Dec 11, 2000, the biggest gap ever in a New York US Senate race. The three candidates (including Guillian) spent a record \$79 million on this race. Male voters split 50-50 between Clinton and Lazio and women chose her 60-40!

Hillary handlers said that Hillary needed 37% of the Cortland County vote and 40% of the Broome County vote in order for her to win the state. Broome gave her 48% of the vote. In Cortland, much to the surprise of local Democratic leaders, Clinton did as well as she did in Broome—10 percentage points more than they expected. Cortland was singled out in the State Democratic newsletter for its fine work. Anti-choice Bush, of course, did not win NYS and he took Republican Cortland County by only a few votes.

THE PILL

The birth control pill was 40 years old on May 9, 2000. It has given women the ability to express their sexuality in the same ways as men have been able to do—without fear of unwanted pregnancy. African American lawyer and organizer of a prostitutes' union, Flo Kennedy says that May 9th would be a national holiday if men got pregnant.

The Pill has meant incredibly expanded opportunities for women of the world. Yet in 2001, we continue our struggle to protect our basic right to control our reproductive lives. Use your voice and your vote against those who would have us return to the bad old days.

HERE IS A SUMMARY OF WHAT'S AT STAKE WITH A NEW CONSERVATIVE ADMINISTRATION ([www. Itís Your Court.org](http://www.ItIsYourCourt.org))

Gay Rights

Supreme Court decision in NJ that an anti-discrimination law could not be applied to the Boy Scouts opens the door for other state and local anti-discrimination laws. Gay artists are frequent targets of right-wing attacks on the arts. Vice Pres. Richard Cheney's wife, Lynn, led the charge when she was the director of the National Endowment for the Arts. Cheney's daughter happens to be a lesbian who works for Coors Beer. Her P.R. job is to visit gay bars to help Coors change its image within the gay community. Recall that the owner of Coors Beer was instrumental in financing the move of the religious right organization, "Focus on the Family" from California to Colorado. Focus On the Family was instrumental in enacting Colorado's anti-gay constitutional amendment. As a result, the gay community staged an effective boycott against Coors. Cheney's daughter traveled with Mr. Leather and their job was to help end the gay boycott of Coors Beer.

Women's Rights

One or two new right wing Justices could overturn Roe v Wade; sexual harassment laws in the workplace and among peers in the schools; and gender based discrimination.

Disability Rights

The Americans with Disabilities Act could be severely restricted with the addition of another right-wing Justice. Fair Housing for

people with disabilities could be gutted, as could Equal-access to free public education for children with disabilities.

Gun Control

Public municipalities agreed to purchase guns only from companies that promised to make their guns safer. Smith and Wesson promised to put child safety locks on their guns and to not sell at gun shows without background checks. The other gun companies did not agree to do this. The non-complying companies recently dropped their lawsuit against this practice because they anticipate an easy road with George W. in office. The NRA is back in the saddle again according to NPR Weekend Edition 1-7-01.

Justice Thomas maintains that only states, not Congress, have the right to pass gun control laws. Ed note: Too bad he didn't think that the elections fell within the states' rights domain also.

Older Americans

Using the states' rights theory of the conservative members of the Supreme Court, Thomas and Scalia asserted that state gov't employees cannot use federal anti-discrimination laws to prove age discrimination in the workplace.

Environmental Protections

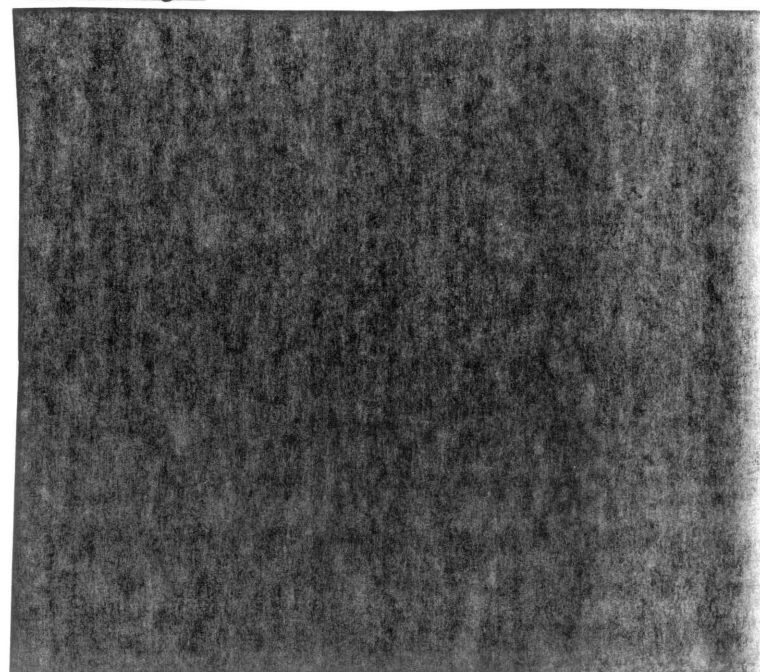
TREES, CLEAN WATER AND FEDERAL LAND—ALL ARE AT STAKE. Right-wing Justices on the Court have argued that citizens should not be able to file lawsuits to enforce water pollution or endangered species laws. Ed note: Hooray for Clinton's lame duck executive order related to a ban on roadways in our national forests.

First Amendment Rights

Scalia and Thomas have argued that cities should be free to limit free speech by imposing large fees for police protection of controversial speakers. Ed note: When Hillary Rodham Clinton visited the ZAP program at the Youth Center in March to meet with 200 kids, ZAP was forced to use its resources that should have gone to teen pregnancy prevention to pay for her police protection. This was the first time a First Lady had ever visited Cortland.

The separation of Church and State is in danger with school vouchers.

Workers' Rights



THE ANTIS IN PURSUIT OF RU-486

After their prolonged and unsuccessful effort to have RU-486 banned in the U. S, the anti-choice folks have initiated a vicious mail campaign that targets doctors. Physicians receive a king sized postcard enumerating purported "myths" about the abortion pill. A little less than timid in their intimidation, the antis threaten that "physicians who perform chemical abortions will be identified, labeled, exposed, stigmatized and ostracized. . ." The card is replete with misinformation and outright lies, distorting facts about the use and efficacy of the FDA approved drug. These cards come regularly from

Life Dynamics of Lewisville, TX, the group that brought us the "How to sue your abortion doctor kit." Ed. Note. Does anyone sense some panic here?

IF YOU'VE GOT RHYTHM, YOU'VE GOT TROUBLE

A recent study of 213 women between the ages of 25 and 35, conducted by the National Institute of Environmental Health and Sciences, has concluded that traditional guidelines about when during the menstrual cycle a woman can get pregnant are unreliable. Based on a combined total of nearly 700 menstrual cycles, scientists found that only about 30 percent of women have their "window of fertility" fall entirely between Day 10 and Day 17 of the cycle, the time long believed to be when most babies are conceived. Researchers concluded that on almost any day of their cycle, some women were fertile. Those seeking to use the "rhythm method" to avoid pregnancy should be warned that the odds are not good.

The New York Times, 12-05-00

GRACIAS, THANKS and MERCİ BEAUCOUP TO:

1. To Ruth for the incredible job of tracking down the opinions of those folks who were running in the November election. Thanks also for the incredible layout of the voters' guide. This was the first survey done by e-mail.
2. To those who bring the good food and cheer to the pot luck mailing parties.

DOCTOR PLANS OFF-SHORE CLINIC FOR ABORTIONS

A unique plan to offer abortion and other reproductive services to women who because of their nation's restrictions cannot obtain them at home will be provided with choices. Dr. Rebecca Gomperts, a Netherlands gynecologist, says the aim of the Amsterdam based group is not only "to help individual women, but to publicize a public health issue that remains taboo in many parts of the world, despite estimates ranging between 60,000 to 100,000 deaths a year from unsafe abortions."

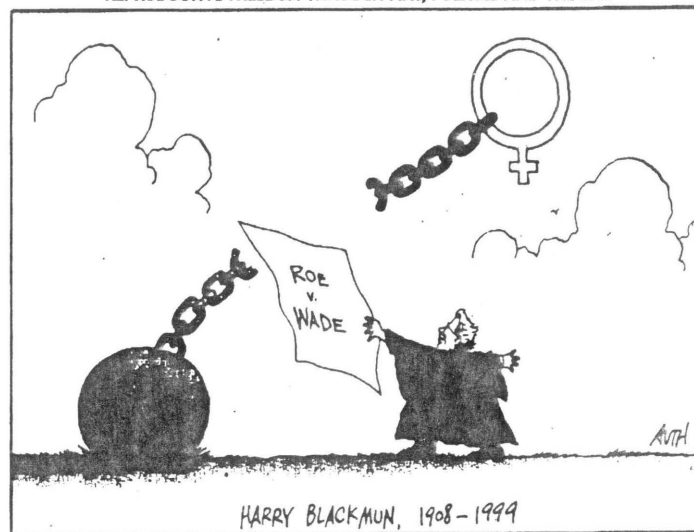
The group, Women on Waves Foundation, plans to raise money to charter a Dutch ship that would anchor 12 miles off shore, in international waters of countries where abortion and other reproductive services are either illegal or unavailable. Dr. Gomperts reported that already in place is a \$50,000 mobile clinic being built to be placed on the ship.

Dr. Gomperts is meeting with American groups, sympathetic to her goals, who might be willing to contribute to the project or provide any other kind of needed support.

The New York Times, 11-21-00

CELEBRATE CHOICE

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM THROUGH ART, POLITICS AND THE LAW



Cartoon reproduced with permission of Tony Auth

CALENDAR

- January 22 Roe v Wade 28th anniversary.
- January 26 Cortland night at the "Vagina Monologues" at the Fire House Theatre in Ithaca.
- January 27 YWCA's Women's Leadership conference at SUNY Cortland.
- January 29-30 Family Planning Advocates Annual Meeting in Albany.
- May School Board Election Issue.
- September Issue
- November Issue on the local elections.

PLEASE RENEW

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

May 2001
Vol. 10, Number 2

GRAND VICTORY FOR PRESCRIPTIVE BIRTH CONTROL COVERAGE!

Remember How Important One Vote Can Be:
VOTE in School Board Elections — May 15 in Homer and Cortland

CORTLAND COUNTY TO COVER BIRTH CONTROL PILLS AND VIAGRA

A local victory! There was a small item in a previous CHOICE newsletter chiding the county government for not including birth control pill coverage in county employees prescriptive plans. One of the county legislators read that article. She inquired of the cost of adding the pills to the coverage. (What is the cost of the birth of a baby?) She happened to have had a role negotiating a new contract with the union representatives. The rest is history. Cortland County now covers birth control pills and not just to REGULATE the cycle and, of course, they continue to cover Viagra. Hooray for the newsletter!

FUGITIVE ARRESTED FOR DR. SLEPIAN'S MURDER

The prime suspect in the murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian of Amherst, N.Y. was arrested in France on March 29. James Kopp has been a fugitive during the nearly two years following the doctor's slaying by a sniper's bullet in the kitchen of his home. Kopp was the object of a worldwide search by the FBI, Interpol, and Canadian, Irish and French police.

Allegedly abetting Kopp was a Brooklyn couple who apparently were planning to help Kopp return to the U.S. with an assumed identity and a fake passport. Mr. Malvasi and Ms. Marra, who also have been arrested and jailed for their attacks on clinics, communicated with Kopp during his flight from authorities and sent him money. When the suspect attempted to pick up the money at a post office in a small town in Brittany, the French police arrested him.

France does not extradite anyone who could face the death penalty, and the charges against Kopp could lead to such a sentence. Louis Freeh, F.B.I. Director, has noted, however, that while he expects that Kopp will be extradited, "there's a lot of restrictions in the [extradition] treaty with respect to the penalty. These are diplomatic issues that have to be determined'."

The New York Times, March 3, 2000

BUMPER STICKERS//BUTTONS

Against Abortion? Get a vasectomy!

A woman's life is a human life

Mister, it's easy to protest abortion when you can't get pregnant

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS MAY 15

Homer has 3 candidates running for three positions so unfortunately there is really no contest. As of press time, we did not have data on the Cortland School District. If someone would like other school districts covered, please write to the newsletter and we will assist you in surveying the candidates.

QUESTIONS ABOUT ENFORCEMENT

"Mr. Kopp's arrest raised questions about the anti-abortion movement and how vigorously the Bush administration would enforce laws against violence at abortion clinics with officials like Mr. Ashcroft who as a Republican senator from Missouri was a strident opponent of abortion."

Mr. Ashcroft, at his Attorney General confirmation hearings "insisted that his views would not affect his willingness to enforce the law," and that "Mr. Kopp would face aggressive prosecution."

The New York Times, March 3, 2001

AN ANTI-ABORTION CONSPIRACY?

The couple arrested in New York for allegedly conspiring to aid James Kopp, Dennis John Malvasi and Loretta Claire Marra, are well-known to police with Malvasi being termed "one of the most violent abortion foes in the history of New York City," and his wife having a long arrest record of chaining herself to abortion clinics. The pair have been charged with conspiracy to "harbor and conceal" James Kopp and "that action seems likely to open a long-standing debate behind anti-abortion violence." Many contend that Kopp could not have avoided arrest during his nearly two-year flight without the assistance of other people; but until the killings of doctors in the early 1990's, officials generally had dismissed ideas about the existence of a conspiracy. The issue was raised again and by the end of 1994, a federal grand jury and the Justice Department investigation led to the issuance of subpoenas of "antis". No indictments were issued, however, and federal prosecutors shifted their strategy. "Instead of trying to prove a national conspiracy, prosecutors provided evidence of local conspiracies by a few individuals or small groups."

What has been known for some time, however, is the existence of groups of "antis" committed to preventing abortions at any cost. Among them are: James Kopp, Rachelle Shannon who shot a doctor in Wichita, Kansas, John Arena, convicted of dousing

clinics with butyric acid, Andrea Cabot, one of the first signers of the declaration calling the killing of abortion providers “‘Justifiable homicide;’” and the Rev. Norman Weslin, founder of an itinerant band of Roman Catholic protesters known as “The Lambs of Christ.” After the passage of the FACE law, making the blockading of clinics illegal, clinic blockades and mass arrests have dropped dramatically; but since 1993 there have been seven murders of doctors and other clinic workers, along with 14 attempted murders and many incidents involving bombing, arson, and vandalism. Kopp is also a suspect in three nonfatal ambushes of doctors in Canada and another in a Rochester suburb.

The New York Times, March 30, 2001

BUSH: Considerations About His First 100 Days

1. Nomination of John Ashcroft to position of Attorney General. Ashcroft supports a ban on abortion even in cases of rape and incest.

2. Nomination of Tommy Thompson to Sec. of Health and Human Services. He's anti-choice and now heads up family planning programs funded by Title X monies. Despite recent FDA approval of RU—486, Thompson has launched a review of the drug.

3. On the second day of his administration, Bush reinstated the global gag rule. Any international family planning agency that receives money from the US cannot even mention the word abortion as an option to an unplanned pregnancy. (see Good News below).

4. He was caught off mike assuring religious leaders that the faith-based initiative is an effort to change the cultural tide on abortion.

5. The prospect of Bush appointing a Supreme Court judge is a source of great stress. There is currently a fragile 5-4 pro-choice majority.

6. VP Cheney publicly advocates reversing Roe V Wade.

7. Bush formally supported the anti-choice March for Life in January in Washington, DC.

8. Bush is making a concerted effort to turn the courts rightward.

Source: web site: www.fight4choice.com

GOOD NEWS

From *The Guardian* in London, a friend sends us an undated clipping:

“Decency gap

The gap left by George Bush's decision to cut funding to . . . (pro-choice) family-planning organizations will be filled by Brussels, according to the commissioner for development, Poul Nielson. They will “fill the decency gap” by replacing the money.”

MORE GOOD NEWS

Our thanks to some very clever and special people. We have a new database. Gobs of gratitude to Dan for making it superb. Thanks to all those who contributed to our Cortland Coalition for Choice in the name of, none other than, George W. Bush. We notified him of our new found wealth given in his name and thanked him profusely.

BULLY IN THE PULPIT

Yes, religious institutions should be engaged with issues of justice and morality. Yes, the NY State Catholic Conference sees its mission as: providing food and health care to the poor; fighting against the death penalty, and advocating for a living wage. Bravo.

But, those lobbying efforts pale compared to Cardinal Egan's action and zeal in preventing the coverage of prescriptive birth control in health insurance. Birth control—haven't we already fought this battle? Margaret Sanger went to jail for it; we went to court for it, and we went public on the Church's power to prevent access to it.

In NY, in 1958, public hospitals could not provide birth control information to their patients because of the church's influence. In the 1960s NYS welfare agencies could not provide such information to their clients even when they asked. The Church had mighty control then and it does now as well. Married couples could not legally use birth control until the Supreme Court decision in 1973—less than 30 years ago!

For several days in March, the *Cortland Standard* gave much prominence to Egan's visits to Albany as he lobbied for including the “conscience clause” in the Women's Health and Wellness bill. The Cardinal's lobbying has brought to a halt the bill's progress. The bill would have required better insurance to cover mammograms, pap smears, and screening for osteoporosis. It also required contraceptive coverage in health insurance that had prescriptive plans. One need not even ask the following questions. Is screening for prostate cancer covered in insurance plans? Is Viagra? You bet they are, and no questions asked! (Just wondering—if Viagra were for women, would it be covered?)

At a press conference presented by 12 Protestant and Jewish clergy in Albany, on 3-12-01, the Monday before the Cardinal's visit, the Rev. Tom Davis said that the “Senate's insistence on the ‘conscience clause’ represents a denial of justice and we are here to speak against injustice.” Davis also recalled a previous campaign in 1958 against the refusal of public hospitals in NY to provide birth control. He said that the clergy for the cause in those days used the slogan, “birth control fulfills, rather than opposes the will of God.”

BUSH REVIVES THE “GAG” RULE

Initiated at a World Health Conference in 1984, by Pres. Ronald Reagan, the Global “Gag” rule was reversed by Pres. Bill Clinton in 1993, and then reinstated by George W. Bush on his second day of his office. The “Gag” rule bans funding for aid to any international family planning programs which discuss abortion at women's clinics. Bush stated that “‘It is my conviction that taxpayer funds should not be used to pay for abortions or advocate or actively promote abortion, either here or abroad.’” In a letter to the president about his action, *Ms. Magazine* stated that “Your spokesperson, Ari Fleischer, said your goal was to make abortion more rare. Your rhetoric belies the facts:

Under U.S. law not one taxpayer dollar is spent to perform or ‘promote’ abortions overseas. The Helms amendment to the foreign appropriations bill forbids such activities. By continuing to talk about ‘taxpayer funding,’ your administration seems to be engaging in a deliberate attempt to mislead the American people about the nature of international family planning funding.

You have stated that the re imposition of the global ‘gag’ rule will make abortion more rare. To the contrary, the record shows that the last time this policy was in effect, there was no reduction in the number of abortions, only reduced access to

quality healthcare services, more unintended pregnancies and more abortions—the exact opposite of your stated goal.”

Ms, April/May 2001

CARDINALS AND MERGERS AND CONSCIENCE CLAUSES, OH MY!

As the NY Senate and Assembly attempt to come to some compromise on the Women's Wellness bill, newly selected Cardinal Egan “seems intent on energetically promoting the Roman Catholic goals before Gov. George Pataki and the state Legislature.”

While Egan's predecessor, Cardinal O'Connor fought his Albany battles around the issues of Medicaid funded abortions, late term abortions and the death penalty, Egan is attacking a bill that would provide better insurance coverage for preventive healthcare for women. Cardinal Egan's problem is that insurance companies would have to cover birth control in this bill.

Cortland Standard 3-5-2001

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

An excellent monograph funded by the Robert Sterling Clark Foundation looks at the public funding of religiously affiliated hospitals. The project grew out of a concern for the many hospital mergers that unite sectarian and religiously based hospitals. The resultant hospital often replaces health and public health practices with religious tenets—no birth control, no emergency contraception (EC) for rape victims, no abortion, no assisted fertilization, no condom education for AIDS victims, and some end of life decisions in jeopardy. Of course, these merged hospitals do not serve people only of the same faith as the hospital's affiliation.

Religious hospitals offer two key arguments as to why they should not be held to legislation that would require them to provide birth control in their employee health insurance, or EC to rape victims in their emergency rooms. These two key statements, they say, argue for the necessity of a conscience clause in such legislation:

1. As operators of private religiously sponsored hospitals, we are entitled to full protection of our religious freedom to offer only those services and consumer choices, which are consistent with our religious values. Government cannot be allowed to intrude through mandates that we provide services we deem immoral.

2. Our historic mission of serving the poor is so important that it should not be threatened by government mandates that would force us to close down rather than violate our religious principles.

An outside and independent research firm looked at the data from hospitals and discovered that these hospitals receive 50% of their funding from Medicaid, Medicare and other government sources. This was consistent with other hospitals. Only 2% of their revenues go to charity care. Public hospitals provide 7 times more charity care than do religiously affiliated hospitals despite their stated mission.

FAITH-BASED FUNDING

In a piece criticizing George W. Bush's proposed faith-based funding initiatives, Bart Kosta, an engineer on the faculty at the U of Southern California says, “The faithful have all too often been willing to die or kill for their notions of spiritual right and wrong. The record here is bloody and ranges from the ancient state-run religions of Egypt and Babylon to the current violence

between the Muslims and Christians in Kosovo. Most of the 30 or so conflicts in the world stem today from faith based disputes’.”

Kosta notes with alarm John Ashcroft's statements in a 199 interview in the Pentecostal magazine *Charisma*. “It's said that we shouldn't legislate morality. Well, I disagree. I think all we should legislate is morality’.” And then at Bob Jones University, “America has been different. We have no king but Jesus.” But Kosko notes “what if non-Christians don't want Jesus as their “king’?”

He notes that faith can undermine critical thinking, and the “point of critical thinking is to root out error and unwarranted belief.” Don't the claims of racists, cultists and dictators rest on faith and not on evidence or reason’?”

“And faith is no friend in the classroom. The goal of learning is to teach students to think critically for themselves. A good teacher does not want students to take what he says on faith. Students should question the grounds for what he (or she) says.

Most Americans are saturated with faith. . . A Time/CNN poll found that 81% of Americans believe in an eternal afterlife’.” Kosko says this is a massive group denial of death. He also asserts that there is no scientific proof that faith based initiatives have been effective. So he urges that there be more critical thinking, more doubt about this funding.

ABORTION PROVIDER FIGHTS UNIVERSITY DISMISSAL

Dr. LeRoy Carhart is the Nebraska doctor whose challenge to the state law banning the so-called “partial birth” abortion, led to the U.S. Supreme Court's striking it down. He has recently been dismissed from his position at the University of Nebraska, and at a federal court hearing the doctor requested an injunction ordering his reinstatement pending a trial on his lawsuit against the University. He is claiming that school officials “told him that they had been under pressure from the office of Gov. Mike Johnson, some members of the University's Board of Regents and some legislators” to have him resign or to terminate his unpaid appointment to the Department of Pathology and Microbiology. He asserts that his dismissal was “politically motivated because he challenged the law, and because of an uproar over the university's use of fetal tissue for research.”

The New York Times, 03/13/2001

It should be recalled that after filing the challenging lawsuit earlier, Dr. Carhart and his family were subjected to threats of physical violence and abuse. His barn was burned down and 17 horses were killed, as were his dog and cat.

Choice Newsletter, Jan., 2001

MORNING AFTER PILL NOW AVAILABLE OVER THE COUNTER IN BRITAIN.

Seeking to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies, the British government now allows pharmacies to dispense the morning after contraceptive without prescription to women 16 or older. Britain has regularly posted the highest teen-age pregnancy rate in Western Europe which, a non profit group, Education for Choice, says is due in part to sex education in British schools often being “piece-meal, non-comprehensive, and often dependent on the extra-curricular dedication of teachers.”

A number of state schools, despite the debate about the new legislation, have quietly begun offering the morning-after pill to students without parental consent. At one secondary school in

Derbyshire, the school "had a lengthy debate regarding the moral, physical and emotional issues [involved] and the school governors agreed that it should be part of the health education program." In support of the legislation, a spokesperson cited that "all the evidence shows that the more information and education a young person has, the more they are willing to delay sexual activity and behave responsibly."

The New York Times, 01/15/2001

LAURA BUSH SPEAKS

Marianne Means, (Cortland Standard 3-7-2001) noted that Laura Bush stated in a TV interview that she didn't think that Roe v Wade should be overturned. Of course, her mother-in-law also held this view, despite George Senior's opposite view.

George W. "did not let such public apostasy stand very long. He promptly rebuffed her, indicating she was entitled to her own opinions but they didn't matter."

"I'm the president'," he said bluntly

ABORTION SURVEILLANCE - ABORTIONS DOWN IN 1997

In 1997, there were 1,186,000 legal abortions reported to the CDC; this was a 3% decrease over those reported in 1996. Twenty per 1000 women in the age group 15-44 had an abortion in 1997, which was the same the previous year when, the women who had abortions were more likely to be less than 25 years of age, white, and unmarried. Most were obtaining an abortion for the first time; the majority of the abortions were performed at or before 8 weeks of gestation, eighty-eight percent were before 13 weeks.

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Review, 12-8-2000.

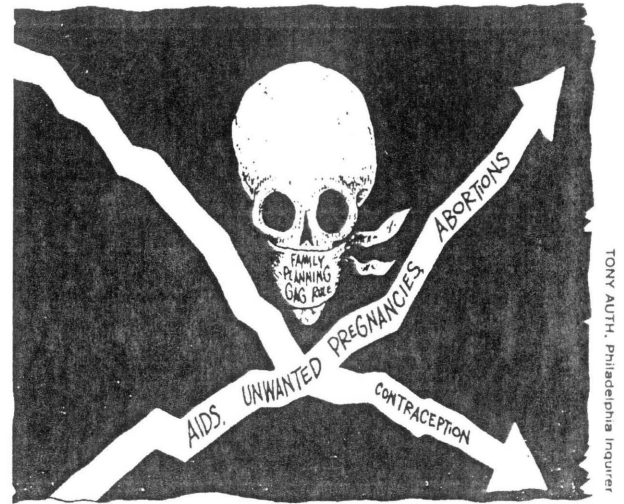
GRACIAS, THANKS and MERCI BEAUCOUP TO:

**Dan for the excellent database

**Ruth for the previous hard work on the database

**The Excellent Cooks at the Pot Luck Mailing Parties. If you think that you missed January, fear not. We were a captive audience on our way to the Family Planning Advocates Annual Meeting in January. We stuffed as we rode.

**The County for covering the PILL.



TONY AUTH, Philadelphia Inquirer

Compassionate conservatism abroad

LAURA SCHLESSINGER CANCELLED!

A small victory for civility has been won. "Culminating its three-year public education campaign against the rhetoric of talk-show host Dr. Laura, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation today (March 30, 2001) hailed the cancellation of her TV show as a major victory against defamation and anti-gay intolerance." Of course, the show had been a critical and ratings failure since its debut.

PRNewswire

CALENDAR

May 15—School Board Elections in Cortland and Homer

August 26—Women's Equite Day Anniversary of date women got the vote—USE IT!

September Issue—back to school

November Issue—local elections

PLEASE VOTE

NEVER THINK THAT WE ARE TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE • WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN CORTLAND

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Contribution: \$50 ___ \$25 ___ \$20 ___ \$10 ___

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Please Note that contributions are not tax deductible

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice • P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

Choice

Cortland, NY 13045

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

September 2001
Vol.10, Number 3

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

VOTE AND THE CHOICE IS YOURS

September 16 -- Primary Elections for County and City Elected Officials

October 17 -- Last Day to Register to Vote in General Election

Find just one person who is not registered to vote; help them register and get to the polls.

SURGEON GENERAL SATCHER'S REPORT ON SEX

Remember Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders? She uttered the word "masturbation" in response to a question from an audience member. As a result of her tell-it-like-it-is forthrightness, she was shunned from the Clinton Administration. Interesting that she was a liability in that administration.

Now her replacement, Surgeon General David Satcher, MD. is also causing more controversy as science and politics continue to clash. After months of infighting with the Bush Administration, Satcher's long awaited report was released on June 28. This report gives an accurate overview of the tolls of STDs and teen pregnancy on young people with recommendations for comprehensive sexuality education in grades K-12 and greater access to condoms and birth control.

Satcher defines sexual health as the "ability to understand and weigh the risks, responsibilities, outcomes and impacts of sexual actions and to practice abstinence when appropriate. This report is a strong counter to the federal government's rightward slant on sexuality and it's funding for abstinence-only programs that now make up most high school health curriculum.

The report further defines sexual health as including the "freedom from sexual abuse and discrimination and the ability of individuals to integrate their sexuality into their lives, derive pleasure from it and reproduce if they choose." Satcher's report emphasized the need to respect diversity in sexual orientation and states that there is no proof that sexual orientation can be changed. In fact, it contends that physical and emotional abuse of gay teenagers can result in depression and suicide. The boldest statement of the report defines

abstinence as celibacy "outside of a mutually monogamous relationship," not necessarily marriage.

The Bush Administration made it clear that they did not commission or release the report. And obviously it does not agree with it, nor will it be influenced by it. \$500 million in federal monies (matched by the states) fund abstinence-only programs over a 5 year period. Satcher's report said that we still have absolutely no proof that these abstinence-only programs work. Opponents continue to equate the Title X family planning monies to these abstinence only monies, and they want parity. Title X funds birth control clinics for low income folks and helps provide sexuality education in the community. The abstinence-only money does only the latter.

Editorial Note: Our county is feeling this conservative influence. According to the Cortland Standard, Gary Seales of Cortland's Albany International Corporation recently funded 4 teachers of Homer Jr. High School's Character Education Committee to attend Tom Lickona's annual summer institute on character education. No one argues with the need for good character, but some strong anti-abortion and anti-homosexuality prejudices influence Mr. Lickona's thinking at his Center for the 4th and 5th R, the sponsor of this summer institute. This Center provides a great deal of teacher training in the state. No one argues against the need to instill respect and responsibility or that abstinence is not the safest means to prevent STDs and teen pregnancy, but we do argue that our young people deserve to have scientifically correct information about sexuality and they should have all the tools they need to make appropriate choices for their lives. Just say "no" is simplistic and it does not work. Give your youngsters some credit. . . and accurate, not dogmatic or fear-based sexuality education.

NEW LEGISLATIVE GUIDES ARE IN

Planned Parenthood of NYC puts together an excellent guide to our elected representative with their pictures and voting record on reproductive issues. To order one send \$5-10 to our box number: PO Box 385, Cortland, NY 13045.

IS THIS ANY WAY TO RUN A STATE?: THE BUDGET AND FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC WOES

If you oppose abortion or if you think that healthy babies are those that are planned and wanted, then funding for the prevention of unwanted pregnancies should make sense. The current NYS baseline budget, passed by the legislature in an effort to bring the Governor to the negotiating table, doesn't provide such funding. Now Pataki is threatening to sue the legislature because he claims that it is an illegal budget. As of 8-16-2001, there is a possibility that all NY State-funded family planning clinics will close their doors. The family planning budget was cut by \$15 million dollars—a 40% cut. The agencies have all been told to go to the banks and get emergency credit lines. Please write to the Governor to do a supplemental budget to restore family planning services.

THE FAMILY PLANNING WAIVER

Wonder of wonders, there is some good news out there. NYS's request for a family planning waiver to extend Medicaid coverage for family planning services to couples up to 200% of poverty has gotten the approval of HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson. With the help of our Governor, Lynn Greffe of the National Republican Pro-Choice Coalition, Joann Smith of Family Planning Advocates, we have a good victory here. This means that more low income folks will have access to family planning clinics. The ability to pay will not be a barrier. These folks are generally working but in service jobs that do not provide health insurance.

The waivers were held up in Washington because some folks thought that primary care should be added to this waiver. We might as well go for National Health Insurance while we are discussing this logically.

NUREMBERG FILES WEBSITE

This website had carried the infamous "wanted" posters with pictures and data on doctors who perform abortions. When Buffalo physician, Barnett Slepian was murdered by an anti-abortion zealot, Slepian's name was shown crossed off this site. Neal Horsley, author of this site now has a new strategy—videotape women entering abortion clinics and post them on the website.

PUBLIC FUNDING OF RELIGIOUSLY-SPONSORED HOSPITALS

The intersection between religion and government is increasing. Faith-based funding, hospital mergers involving private and religious institutions and religiously run Medicaid managed care businesses are examples.

What are the rights of patients in these situations? From the Merger Watch Project of Family Planning Advocates comes this series of provocative questions.

1. In medical decision-making, whose ethical or religious "conscience" should be paramount—the individual whose health is at stake or the institution which would provide the care?

2. Should a religiously-sponsored hospital be allowed to refuse to provide any services it deems immoral, even when it serves the general community, including patients of other faiths?

3. What if patients have no other reasonable alternative choice of a hospital because of the wave of mergers and hospital closures that has swept the health care over the past decade?

4. What are the rights of physicians and employees of a religiously-sponsored hospital? Can a physician be forced to sign a statement promising to adhere to religious health care doctrine in order to retain admitting privileges at a hospital? Should hospital employees be barred from providing information and referrals to patients concerning services such as birth control, "safer sex" practices, abortion and infertility because of the hospital's religious policies?

5. Should a religiously-sponsored hospital be granted an exemption from a state law mandating employee health insurance for contraception or infertility services? What if the majority of the employees of the hospital are of different faiths than the denomination sponsoring the facility, as is often the case?

OTHER FINDINGS FROM THIS REPORT

Religious hospitals claim that their mission is to serve the poor and that as private hospitals they are entitled to full protection of their religious freedom to offer only the services that are consistent with their values. Religious hospitals provide 18% of all hospital beds in the country. In a 6 state sample, these religious hospitals derive half of their revenue from federal, state and local governments. How private is this?

Religious hospitals deliver less of the health care services to the poor compared to any other class of hospital (public, non sectarian, for-profit). Other than for-profit hospitals, religious hospitals provided the least amount of charity care, despite their stated mission.

Source: No Strings Attached: Public Funding of Religiously-Sponsored Hospitals in the US. Draft Report. FP Advocates of NYS.

VOTE

SENATE JUDICIARY: PAY ATTENTION

In a letter to the editor, Elizabeth Cavendish, Legal Director of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, writes in dissent of a recent article by Jeffrey Rosen in which he asserted that there is little left for lower courts to decide about reproductive rights; and that Bush's state court candidates will only regulate "around the fringes" of reproductive rights, thus not requiring the opposition of pro-choice senators.

Disagreeing with Rosen, she points out that currently there are many critical issues being decided, among them the Supreme Court's refusal to review South Carolina's abortion regulations, "rules so onerous they could ban all first trimester abortions." Without such South Carolina review, the Fourth Circuit's conservative judges "can effectively resist the rights of women in South Carolina to choose legal abortion."

Further, she warned that, "state legislatures are attacking reproductive rights.... Three-fifths of the states flouted Roe vs Wade when they enacted bans on pre-viability procedures.... Between 1995 and 2000, states enacted 262 anti-choice measures." There are eleven states ready to ban abortion altogether if the very slim 5-4 balance of the present Supreme Court changes.

The New Republic. 07-30-01

NEW YORK TIMES PROFILES ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH'S JAMES WAGONER

"The New York Times today features a profile of James Wagoner, president of Advocates for Youth, and his group's efforts to "topple barriers—legal, social and emotional—to informing young people about sexuality." Advocates for Youth has "squared off" against the Bush administration, which has taken a "sharp right turn" on reproductive health issues with moves to "curtail" contraceptive access among low-income women, promote abstinence-only education in schools, and reinstate the "Mexico City" policy, which prohibits U.S. funding for overseas groups that use their own money to provide or advocate abortion services. In particular, Advocates for Youth has "sounded alarms" about the administration's plans to double to \$315 million spending on abstinence-only education programs, which forbid contraceptive counseling for students, "at a time when those under 25 make up half of newly reported cases of HIV." Citing a lack of "broadly accepted studies" that prove abstinence-only programs are effective, Wagoner said, "I don't think Advocates arrived at this position of challenging the Bush administration as a political strategy. We arrived there somewhat inevitably by supporting research-based public health policy." (Schemo, New York Times, 8/20)

UNDER THE HEADING "WHERE ARE THEY NOW?" REMEMBER RANDALL TERRY?

An article about the former icon of the antis was timed to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the Wichita, Kansas

anti-abortion demonstrations that continued for several weeks and resulted in 2700 arrests.

One may recall that Operation Rescue was headed by the "hyper-aggressive" director who says that he now writes music instead of leading protests. He lost his star luster among the antis following a divorce from his wife of nineteen years; a second marriage to a former assistant sixteen years his junior; the censure of several former colleagues; the taint of scandal involving improper use of funds; and denunciation by his former pastor.

Rising to national fame in the mid-eighties, he "inspired tens of thousands to break the law in the name of the unborn," and was jailed repeatedly.

But in the mid-nineties Terry watched the direct action movement lose its steam, and in 1998 in his race for a Congressional seat he lost overwhelmingly. His slide was intensified as he "saw women's groups win significant legal action against him for the damage and disruption he had caused over the years."

So now, denounced by allies and censured by his former pastor, Mr. Terry (after a sabbatical) "is working out of a trailer that serves as offices for his ministry....his used car business and the 100 watt radio station that once broadcast 'Randall Terry' live" sustain him. On his shelves are stacked books by Randall Terry, and on his desk are "opened envelopes addressed to Randall Terry and his 'Back to the Battle' fund raising campaign...."

He tells the Times reporter "'Now I start building my comeback.'"

New York Times. 07-20-01

WICHITA, KANSAS, 2001

This year's protest in Wichita was planned by the antis to single out Dr. George Tiller as the subject of their protests. Dr. Tiller was shot by a militant abortion opponent in 1993.

When abortion rights leaders complained that Attorney General Ashcroft had shown little interest for the possible violence in Wichita, the Marshals Service ordered deputies to be available there to augment local police. Following a request from the choice leaders to meet with Ashcroft, he offered a meeting with his deputy instead.

The Executive Director of the National Abortion Rights Federation said "that Mr. Ashcroft should take a visible stance against clinic violence. She added that the groups wanted specifically to ask the Attorney General for "an intensification of the search for an anti-abortion militant who had made specific threats against clinics."

During his confirmation, Mr. Ashcroft had assured Senators that his anti-abortion views "would not deter him from aggressive enforcement" of the 1994 FACE law, making clinic violence a federal crime.

New York Times. 07-15-01

ANTIS CONFRONT THE STEM CELL RESEARCH ISSUE

George W. Bush's recent decision to allow government funding for stem cell research under very limited conditions reflects the complexity of the moral issue involved with in vitro fertilization and surplus" fertilized embryos.

On the one hand scientists are holding out great hope that such study will lead to cures for dreadful diseases such as Parkinsons, Alzheimers and diabetes. And even stalwart abortion opponents like Orrin Hatch and Strom Thurmond have stated their support for such research. On the other, according to one commentator, other opponents "like Dick Armey, Tom DeLay and J.C. Watts have taken the stand that "it's not pro-life to rely on an industry of death even if the intention is to find cures for diseases."

A recent column by Ellen Goodman puts the debate succinctly: In some ways the endless abortion argument has driven all other discussion over reproduction to the extremes. At one end, the fertilized egg is talked about as little more than tissue. On the other end, it is given the full moral stature of a human being.

Those who favor abortion rights have been challenged and sometimes divided by the grim choices of late term abortions. Until now though, as Thomas Murray of the Hastings Center says, 'The pro-life movement has been able to dodge a problem within their ranks for many years: the moral status of the very early embryo, prior to implementation, perhaps not even within a woman's body.'

Now, in this civil war over 'life,' they face a parallel divide: 'Most people,' says Murray, do not view either birth control as murder, or IVF freezing as equivalent to placing your five-year-old in the deep freeze.'

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions __\$50 __\$25 __\$20 __\$10 __Other

Contributions are NOT tax deductible

If there is one thing that comes out of this political skirmish, it's the understanding that an embryo created in a dish is not a thing and not a person. We cannot use embryos for frivolous purposes. 'We don't make earrings out of them, we don't use them in high school labs,' says Steinbock [U. of Alabama bioethicist]. But we can with seriousness and respect, use them for medical research that will, one hopes, save lives.

Yes, being 'pro-life' also means being 'pro-life for existing life.' Those who now call themselves pro-life and pro-stem cell research have had to give up the simple and simplistic idea that a fertilized egg is a full and equal human life. Welcome. There's plenty of room under the banner that reads: It's more complicated than that.

The Boston Globe, 07-09-01

A RECYCLED CLASSIC CARTOON



CALENDAR

•• Sep 11 - Primary Election Day VOTE

•• Oct 17 - Last day to register to vote in general election--a local election of city council members, mayor, and the county legislature.

•• Nov 6 - Election Day, Polls open from 6AM to 9PM, Again PLEASE VOTE

•• Jan 22, 2002 - Roe V Wade 29th Anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision

GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

• All the Funnars who attend the potluck dinners and get out the mailing. We could not do it without you. You are a noble group.

- Pat, who has learned the technology
- Again to Dan for the data base
- Ellen, for the distributions of the newsletter
- Andrea, for the distributions of the newsletter

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

*November 2001
Vol.10, Number 4*

WHAT PERCENT OF CORTLAND COUNTY CITIZENS VOTED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN 2000?

DON'T TAKE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE FOR GRANTED

Please show your patriotism and commitment to this country by voting in record numbers on November 6th. In the past presidential election, of the people in Cortland eligible to vote, only 54.6% voted. The percent for the country was 62%. There is usually a higher percentage of people voting in a presidential year, but that was not the case for Cortland in 2000.

There are 37,093 individuals 18 years of age or older in Cortland County. If we considered all of them eligible to vote (which is probably not exactly the case but close enough), then 72.3 % of those eligible to register, are actually registered to vote. That means that 39.5% of all the people eligible to vote actually vote in Cortland. So, approximately 40% of all people eligible to vote make the decisions for 100% of us in Cortland.

JERRY FALWELL AND PAT ROBERTSON

John Harris of the Washington Post (9-14-01) writes that "Falwell and Robertson, two of the most prominent voices of the religious right said liberal civil liberties groups, feminists, homosexuals and abortion rights supporters bear partial responsibility for Tuesday's terrorist attacks because their actions have turned God's anger against America."

"'God continues to lift the curtain and allow the enemies of America to give us probably what we deserve'," said Falwell on the 700 Club hosted by Pat Robertson.

"'Jerry, that's my feeling. I think we've just seen the antechamber to terror. We haven't even begun to see what they can do to the major population'," said Robertson.

Falwell replied:

The abortionists have got to bear some burden for this because God will not be mocked. And when we destroy 40 million little innocent babies, we make God mad. I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People for the American Way — all of them who have tried to secularize America — I point the finger in their face and say, You helped this happen.... the secular and anti-Christian environment left us open to our Lord's [decision] not to protect. When a nation deserts God and expels God from the culture...the results are not good.

Harris reported that the White House said the remarks were inappropriate and that the President does not share those views. Falwell has since apologized for his remarks: "I do not know if the horrific events of September 11 are the judgment of God, but if they are, that judgment is on all of America—including me and all fellow sinners—and not on any particular group."

ROBERTSON ON POPULATION CONTROL

Catherine Lederer-Plaskett, the board chair of the Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion, surveyed many pro-choice people as to why they were pro-choice. Never did she hear that abortion should be permitted because it was a form of population control.

VOTE AND THE CHOICE IS YOURS

In an article, "Why Are You Pro-Choice?" she writes, "That amazing rationale was professed by right-to-lifer and Christian Coalition founder Rev. Pat Robertson on CNN's "Wolf Blitzer Reports." Robertson said, 'They've got 1.2 billion people and they don't know what to do....If every family over there was allowed to have three or four children, the population would be completely unsustainable....So I think that right now the [leaders in China who are forcing women to have abortions] are doing what they have to do'."

Source: ProChoice Newsletter of Westchester, Sept 2001

TERRORISM

It is difficult to write something meaningful about choice in the face of the horrific suicide missions of September 11th. Our country, our world, will never be the same. We shudder at Falwell's statements above. We hope that the religious right cares as much about the existing innocent moral entities – women, men, and children in Afghanistan, as they do about the unborn.

Our country is now more personally touched by terrorism. Now, we have some partial understanding of what life has been like for citizens in Israel, Palestine, Northern Ireland, England, and other countries that have experienced this frightful terrorism. We remember the 168 victims of the terrorists' attack in Oklahoma City. We think of the fear that must be experienced by abortion-providing physicians who must wear bulletproof vests outside of their homes. We think of the seven individuals — a security guard, two health care workers and four physicians who were murdered in the name of "right to life." We think of all of the family planning and abortion clinics in America that have had to fortify their security systems in order to function. They have faced anthrax scares, and threats of violence, bombing, arson and assassination. Several years ago, the Cortland family planning clinic had an anthrax scare. Our hearts go out to all who must live in fear because of fanaticism.

OLD QUOTES

Following are some old quotations from the religious right. They are scarier now than when originally printed.

"Destroying property is sometimes a good way to save lives."
Mary Meehan of the National Catholic Reporter, 1986.

If the boiling, pent-up rage of the 'pro-life' movement is allowed no channel or outlet (through law), it may explode into such frightening violence that will make the bombing of abortion clinics look like child's play. Dr. Bernard Nathanson, Gyn. at Human Life International Symposium on Human Sexuality, 1986.

"On the other hand, groups like Planned Parenthood, ...the ACLU, NOW, are all part of an anti-Christian network whose cause is to work for anti-Christian goals. That net-

work is overly peopled by members of the Reform Jewish Community and men who I believe to be Free Masons."
James Condit, Jr. Cincinnati candidate for city council, 1986.

STEM CELL RESEACH

Conservative columnist Jeffrey Hart (Cortland Standard 8-31-01) hoped that the Senate would be more reflective than the House when it considers the ban on human cloning. Hart is confident that the medical community has plenty of oversight and he urged the Senate to vote against the ban.

"Cloning a human cell," he says, "might well be important in the developing stem-cell therapy, still untested and probably over-sold to the public. But, if these highly adaptable stem cells can indeed repair damaged organs, then the stem cells used might well be more effective if they matched the DNA of the recipient.

"To achieve this, the technician removes the nucleus from the egg to be used, and substitutes for it the nucleus from a cell of the prospective recipient. Then the stem cells to be reproduced will have the same DNA.

"The egg used is not going to become a human. For that to happen it would have to be inserted into a human female." Hart argues that that is the step that should be banned.

Hart credits the President with seeing the complexity of the stem-cell research issue. Bush approved federal support for the research on the 60 existing stem cell lines. These cells were created by in vitro fertilization and are no longer part of an embryo. Most scientists say that this is enough for the research.

"The concept ion –to-natural–death formula has the merit of simplicity....Yet it is contradicted by actual experience. Neither Catholic teaching nor common sense public opinion holds that the life of the mother should be sacrificed to preserve even an advanced fetus....At Omaha Beach, lots of human life was sacrificed to achieve goals that were deemed necessary."

Stem cell research has the potential to provide treatment for Alzheimers and Parkinson's diseases, spinal cord injury, diabetes, and cancer.

FALWELL'S NEWSLETTER SAYS U.S. VACCINES DERIVED FROM FETAL TISSUE

In Mathew Staver's article "Compulsory Vaccination Threatens Religious Freedom," which appeared in the September, 2001 issue of the National Liberty Journal, he states:

"You may be surprised to learn that some vaccinations are derived from aborted fetal issue. Vaccine for chicken pox, hepatitis-A, and Rubella were produced solely from aborted fetal tissue." Source: <http://www.nljonline.com>

VOTE

TALK RADIO HOST LIMBAUGH LOSES HEARING

President Bush expressed personal concern to his senior staff about Limbaugh, who in the past three months has been steadily losing his hearing.

“The president noted Rush Limbaugh is a national treasure,” one senior White House staffer told the Drudge Report. Source: October, 2001. National Liberty Journal.

FEDERAL JUDGE ISSUES PERMANENT INJUNCTION IN UTICA CASE

The Kraeger family of Utica was fined \$80,000 after Judge David Hurd ruled that they had constituted a threat to the Planned Parenthood Clinic on a number of occasions during three and a half years of demonstrations. Once, for instance, Mrs. Victoria Kraegar placed a brown paper package with no return address in the clinic's lobby, which the clinic's director thought might have been a bomb (it contained anti-abortion pamphlets). Judge Hurd also cited other threats by the family: "...posters left outside the office and home of the clinic's director, Margaret Roberts, saying she had the blood of babies on her hands." Other unlawful acts the court ruled as threats were "...standing in front of cars entering the driveway to the clinic, and offering to pay for personal information about the clinic's physician," just days after the murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian in Buffalo.

The ruling, though handed down in the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York, was the first application of New York State's clinic access law, and was seen by Attorney General Robert Spitzer as a victory, setting a significant legal precedent.

The New York Times, 8-28-01.

"Judge David Hurd's courageous and strongly worded decision upholds the rights of women to access reproductive health care without the sort of outrageous harassment and threats that became all too common in Utica. This decision holds out the state's hand of support and protection to the dedicated women and men who work in reproductive health care."

Joann Smith of the Family Planning Advocates spoke these words in response to this August court ruling. She credited N.Y. Attorney General Elliot Spitzer who brought the case and Jennifer Brown, director of the Attorney General's Reproductive Right's Bureau.

Source: www.fpaofnys.org

LIFE DYNAMICS AT IT AGAIN

This anti-abortion, Texas-based group has been the source of frequent mailings of gruesome picture postcards to all the physicians in the country warning them not to provide abortions. They are also the purveyors of an anti-Semitic comic book aimed at ObGyn residents as well as a packet containing directions for suing abortion providers.

Their latest quest is to defend James Kopp, the person charged with the murder of Dr. Slepian, the physician at a

Buffalo, NY abortion clinic. Life Dynamics claims that the FBI manufactured evidence against Kopp. Doris Grady and her husband, friends of Kopp, said that he was living in their basement in Pittsburgh when the FBI claims that he was in Tennessee purchasing the rifle used to kill Slepian. The gun was found buried behind the Slepian house five months after the murder. Kopp was captured in France in March. New York Times update 10/15/01. Kopp's appeal to avoid extradition was turned down by French Court.

FAMILY PLANNING WAIVER APPROVED WITH PUSH FROM GOVERNOR PATAKI

Family Planning Advocates of NY was elated with the "report from Governor Pataki that an agreement has been reached between his office and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to approve New York State's precedent setting family planning waiver. Once finally approved and implemented, this new program will expand critical family planning services to thousands of working men and women who do not have insurance coverage."

JoAnn Smith, Director of Family Planning Advocates states that "on behalf of the women of New York State we thank Governor Pataki for helping assure that thousands of low-income people will now receive the health care services they so rightly deserve. . . ."

This program had strong bi-partisan support last year when it passed the New York State Legislature. It attracted strong bi-partisan support again from New York's congressional delegation when concerns about approval surfaced this summer.

We thank Governor Pataki and all New York's public officials who stood with us on behalf of improving health care. We also appreciate the cooperation shown by Secretary Thompson and his staff." Source www.fpaofnys.org

THEOLOGIAN SPEAKS ON STEM CELL RESEARCH

Daniel C. McGuire, professor of moral theology at Marquette University grapples with the question of when does human life begin? He sets forth that sperm, egg and embryo are all tissue, but asks when does this tissue assume the status of a person?

The "Pope and Catholic Bishops and others on the religious right" believe that life begins in the embryonic tissue and thus consider embryo cell research immoral in that it is killing a person. "Other religious views," those who do not consider this tissue a child, "are being ignored."

He argues that, St. Thomas, a premier Roman Catholic teacher, did not believe that ensoulment occurred until the 3rd or 4th month, and notes that "Catholic theologian Christine Gudorf writes that the traditional Catholic pastoral view was that 'ensoulment occurred at quickening.... around the 5th month. As proof, McGuire says that this is "the reason that the Church does not baptize miscarriages. Mainline Protestant churches tend to agree."

According to Theologian Laurie Zoloth "a fetus is not seen as being an ensouled person." In the first 40 days the "conception is considered 'like water.' In the last trimester the fetus has a lesser moral status."

"As we grapple with exceedingly complex and morally difficult issues that science now presents, it is imperative that we integrate into our thinking all of the religious and ethical sources that can shed wisdom." Commentary Section, Los Angeles Times, August 6, 2001.

COST EFFECTIVENESS OF CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE

Increased cost is the main argument against adding contraceptive coverage to prescription plans. Yet a report by William M. Mercer, Inc. shows that employers will cut the direct and indirect costs of health care by adding this coverage. The Mercer study, Gardner study, and Washington Business Group, all research done for employers in the past couple of years concluded the same thing – the addition of prescriptive birth control coverage saves health insurance money.

The Mercer study noted that although there will be an immediate 1% increase in cost, over time considerable cost savings will result in avoiding high-cost births. The report also noted the derived benefits of increased employee morale and improved ability to attract and retain employees.

Mercer data was cited in the recent U.S. Senate Health Committee hearings. Republican Olympia Snowe of Maine and Democrat Harry Reid of Nevada have sponsored legislation for the past four-years that would have all health insurance companies cover contraceptives if they cover prescriptions. Snowe said that this is not a pro choice/pro-life issue, but just a matter of basic fairness. Women pay 68% more in out of pocket costs for health care than do men, primarily due to contraceptive costs.

In June, 2001, pharmacist Jennifer Ericson sued her employer, Bartell Drug Company, for comprehensive drug coverage. Not only was she not covered for prescriptive birth control, she was faced with the daily responsibility of telling her customers that their prescriptive plan did not cover contraceptives. The western district federal court in the state of Washington agreed with Ericson that the lack of birth control coverage was gender discrimination and a violation of civil rights under Title Seven. Snowe and Reid want a national standard for this coverage as they are proposing in Senate Bill S104. Only sixteen states (NYS has not passed this bill because of the controversial "conscious clause") require their insurance companies to provide this coverage.

It is interesting to note that federal employees have had such coverage for several years and that it has not increased premiums or raised the cost of insurance for their nine million federal employees.

On the other hand, of all the world's developed countries, the US has the highest rate of unplanned pregnancies, fifty percent, which computes to 3.6 million unplanned pregnancies per year, of which about one third end in abortions. Further, exceedingly high costs are associated with unplanned pregnancies stemming from women in this situation being more likely to drink alcohol and smoke, and less likely to get prenatal care. Our maternal mortality rate is twenty-first in the world.

Polls show that Americans understand the logic of mandatory health insurance coverage of contraception and give their overwhelming support for the Snowe-Reid legislation..

VOTE

CALENDAR

•• November 6th—Election Day, Polls open 6am to 9pm

•• January issue of the Choice Newsletter—Our once-a-year membership appeal.

•• Jan 22, 2002 - 29th anniversary of Roe v Wade, the landmark Supreme Court Decision for abortion rights.

GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

The researchers, writers and envelop stuffers who made this newsletter possible for the past 12 years.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions __\$50 __\$25 __\$20 __\$10__ Other

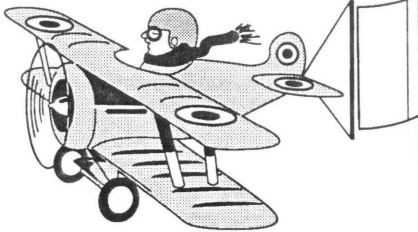
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Cortland, NY 13045

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045
January 2002
Vol. 11, Number 1



JANUARY IS ANNUAL RENEWAL MONTH

YEAR IN REVIEW

From the 2001 Election:

- New anti-choice president “won” the election with the backing of the National Right to Life Committee and Pat Robertson’s Christian Coalition.

- Presidential candidate Ralph Nader recants and says there IS a difference between Bush and Gore on reproductive choice issues.

- Our senators to Washington are both Pro-Choice, Clinton having defeated anti-choice Lazio.

- The NYS Senate gained 1 pro-choice vote.

- The NYS Assembly gained 2 pro-choice votes.

Bush appointments:

- Linda Fisher, top lobbyist for Monsanto — Deputy Administrator of the EPA;

- James Conaughton, Washington lawyer for ARCO and GE — to head the Council on Environmental Quality;

- J. Steven Griles, lobbyist for the National Mining Association — #2 slot at the Interior Department, which oversees mining on public lands;

- James Roche, vice president of Northrup Grumman, the giant defense contractor (has Air Force contracts) — Secretary of the Air Force;

- Gordon England, vice president of General Dynamics (has many defense contracts with the Navy) — Secretary of the Navy;

- Norman Mineta, VP at Lockheed Martin—Head of the Dept of Transportation;

- Gale Norton, Mountain States Legal Foundation, an anti environmental group funded by oil companies — Head of Dept of Interior;

- John Ashcroft, as senator he sponsored bill to extend Schering Plough patent rights and got \$50,000 in campaign contributions from them. He got \$1.7 from oil, chemical, and paper companies grateful for his opposition to funding environmental enforcement, his rolling back of clean water protections and allowing mining companies to dump cyanide and other wastes on public land. Lost his senate re-election bid to a dead guy and has an honorary degree from Bob Jones University — Attorney General;

- Paul O’Neil, former CEO of Alcoa and former CEO of International Paper — Secretary of the Treasury;

- Tommy Thompson, major contributors when he was governor of Wisconsin were HMOs, hospital chains, and insurance companies. He now governs the family planning funds of the country. He is anti-choice. — Secretary of Health and Human Services;

Source: Molly Ivins editorial columns.

YEAR IN REVIEW — OTHER ITEMS:

- International Gag Rule revived — No U.S. funds will go to aid international family planning agencies if abortion is even discussed as an option to an unplanned pregnancy.

Faith-based funding initiatives:

- RU-486 finally approved for use in U.S. (In use in Europe since 1986)

- U.S. still leads the developed world in rate of unintended pregnancies.

- Federal administration proposes to spend \$315 million on abstinence only school educational programs.

- NYS got a federal waiver to extend Medicaid coverage for birth control to women up to 200 % of the poverty level.

- Stem cell research controversy “settled.”

- 9-11-01 terrorism and anthrax scares. This continues the pattern of domestic terrorism (the killing of doctors and staffs in clinics, bombing, arson, harassment, and anthrax threats) that abortion providers have experienced for years.

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

This newsletter is an exercise in freedom. May it motivate you to practice your constitutional rights. Many died that we might be able to express our opinions, to have a say in who governs us and how we are governed. (Ed Note: I am charged up after reading McCullough’s John Adams.)

A big chill went through the hearts of academic freedom lovers everywhere when the “right leaning American Council of College Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) released a report (Defending Civilization: How Our Universities Are Failing America. . .) in which 117 professors and students were accused of unconstitution-

activity for having made statements on U.S. campuses that questioned or opposed the anti-terrorist military campaign in Afghanistan." ACTA "seeks to restore a traditional, Euro-centric liberal-arts curriculum at U.S. campuses [and] was founded by. . . Lynne Cheney and Joseph Lieberman." Assemblyman Luster who represented Cortland wrote Senator Lieberman expressing his great dismay at Lieberman's association with this report. He said, "the report is quite correct in stating that academic freedom does not exempt professors from criticism. It is equally correct to criticize the report as a thinly veiled effort to inhibit and chill the very academic freedom you claim to support. . . Surely a person of your [background] must understand that this broad-based, anti-intellectual attack is contrary to our American ideals. . . and is a frightening and intimidating document."

Albany [newspaper], Metroland Dec 13

The Nation reported that ACTA initially posted names, quotes and institutions on its website but pulled the names when accused of "gray"-listing.

SO SPEAK OUT

Use those freedoms to address the challenges that we continue to face.

1. We still have insurance companies that do not treat contraceptives as a covered prescriptive drug. Meanwhile we lead the developed world in unintended pregnancies.

2. Women in the military stationed overseas cannot obtain abortions in military hospitals, even if they pay for them.

3. Despite our having the highest rate of teen pregnancy in the western industrialized world, many states still refuse to provide comprehensive sexuality education programs and services to teens. And major federal funding goes to scientifically unproven abstinence-only sex education curriculums.

4. Legislators continue to introduce bills to limit access to contraception and abortion services with:

Mandated waiting periods.

Parental notification restrictions.

Blocking access to emergency contraceptive services.

TEENS TURN TO INTERNET FOR SEXUALITY INFORMATION

Embarrassed or frustrated at home or in school, teens now state that a major source of sexuality information is the Web according to the Family Kaiser Foundation. Teens do need a good reliable source of information. (This author recalls locating a site several years ago that dealt with abstinence. Information was provided amid leaping flames as if you were burning in hell.) SIECUS, NARAL/NY, Planned Parenthood, and Ask Alice are reputable sources of information on the web.

DOCTORS IN TRAINING

A 2000 survey done by the Institute for Reproductive Health Access, a project of NARAL/NY Foundation, found that 60% of all respondents (3rd and 4th year OB/GYN residents plan to offer their patients elective abortion services. Of that group, 80% said that they had no training in medical abortion procedures (RU-486) or that training had not been available to them. The survey had a response rate of 50%; 160 of NYS's 320 Ob/Gyn residents responded. The Institute's Residency Training Program is currently working with nine residency programs in NYS to integrate the most modern methods of abortion technique.

AFTERMATH OF 9-11 AND THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

The millions of low-income women who rely on Medicaid for their reproductive health care will most likely experience the fallout from these events. A year ago state and federal governments had surpluses, but now a majority of states are in the red, as is the federal government. Medicaid is a shared expense of state and federal governments that funds health care for 40 million Americans. Nearly 2 million jobs were lost in 2001. Also last year, the five-year welfare limit came due for some Americans unable to work or find work. Health care costs at Medicaid are expected to rise 9% in 2002 and states are already chopping Medicaid benefits. Source: The Institute for Reproductive Health Access NARAL/NY

BIRTH CONTROL PROVIDES HIGH LEVEL OF PROTECTION AGAINST OVARIAN CANCER

The 1-02-02 Cortland Standard reports the results from the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center. Their 20 years' study showed that women who took birth control pills containing estrogen and progestin had a 50% less risk of ovarian cancer compared to women who did not take the pill. The higher the progestin, the greater the protection. Researchers think that these results might lead to new protective progestin drugs against ovarian cancer.

ABORTION FOES AD STOOPS TO NEW LOW

A recent news story citing the problem of trying to get political mileage out of the September terror attacks noted that the jury is still out regarding public opinion on the topic. A case in point involves an anti-abortion group, Idaho Chooses Life, which ran a 30-second television ad contending that while "some 4000 people died in the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center (a picture of the smoking towers flashes on the screen) at least that many deaths, and maybe more, occur every day in the United States from abortions."

The Executive Director of the sponsoring group described the ad as "an effort to take advantage of the 9/11 events to press our case for sparing the lives of babies." The Idaho Women's Network termed the ad "blatant exploitation."

The New York Times. 12-2-01

ANTHRAX THREATS LEAD TO JAILING OF ABORTION FOE

Following his prison escape 11 months ago, Clayton Lee Waagner was arrested in Cincinnati, Ohio, on Dec. 5th. On the FBI's Most Wanted List, U.S. Marshals had sought Waagner as the chief suspect responsible for the nationwide wave of anthrax threats against abortion clinics.

Waagner had escaped from prison while serving time for firearms and car theft charges. He apparently used photocopy stores to access addresses of women's clinics and to check for e-mail on anti-abortion sites. Styling himself as an anti-abortion "warrior," commissioned by God, he exploited the anthrax deaths, following the Sept. 11 attack in mailings to 280 clinics. The letters warned that, "You have chosen a profession which profits from the senseless murder of millions of innocent children each year. We are going to kill you. This is your notice. Stop now or die." Signed by "The Army of God," the letters contained packets of powdery substances which, thus far, have proved free of lethal anthrax.

When apprehended, the fugitive had a loaded handgun, a stolen Mercedes-Benz, computer material and \$10,000 cash. According to the chief marshal, Waagner had "sustained a rather lavish lifestyle by robbing banks in numerous Eastern states."

While Waagner was apprehended when a Kinko's clerk recognized him from a "most wanted poster," marshals a short time earlier had learned that he had visited an abortion opponent, Neal Horsley, at Horsley's home in Carrollton, Ga. There, Waagner "claimed responsibility for the anthrax threat and threatened to kill 42 workers in abortion clinics." Mr. Horsley called the authorities.

"President of Planned Parenthood Gloria Feldt said that she was "elated that he was caught . . . and [that] now is the time to finish the job, and catch all the others who aided and abetted [Waagner]."

According to the New York Times, "federal officials made no mention of possible accomplices. But abortion rights advocates organizations speculated that the threats were so widespread that they were likely to be the work of more than one person."

The New York Times (12-6-2001)

ANTHRAX ISN'T THE ONLY MAIL TO WATCH OUT FOR

A recent nationwide mailing to doctors by a Denton, Texas, group, Life Dynamics, Inc. consists of a 12-page two-color brochure clearly designed to humiliate, intimidate, and even threaten physicians who perform abortions. Even medical students who consider such training are in this target group. A number of pages consist of out of context quotations by doctors (always referred to as "abortionists") about the difficulties and threats they deal with as physicians who perform the procedure.

One page bluntly threatens workers in women's clinics that "your job could land you jail" and lists "illegal or unethical activities" on the part of employers which, if concealed by the worker, could lead to imprisonment. Headed by a large, red-printed "WARNING," the crimes include: "Income Tax Evasion, Medical Fraud, Insurance Fraud, Money Laundering, Physical Assaults on Patients, Employee Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assaults of Patients, Health and Safety Violations, Consumer Fraud and many more." Somewhat oddly, the crimes listed here, by implication, are considered applicable only to women's clinics.

Not long ago Life Dynamics Inc. produced another mailing, this one directed at women who may have had abortions. The brochure was really aimed at physicians who perform abortions, but its clever and devious approach provided detailed directions for taking legal action against abortion providers — a do-it-yourself legal kit listing possible effects of abortion, such as depression.

PELOSI MAKES HISTORY WINNING HOUSE DEMOCRATIC WHIP RACE

House Democrats elected Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) to be the next Democratic Whip, making her the highest-ranking woman in the history of the House of Representatives, second in command under Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt (D-MO). Pelosi, staunchly pro-choice and with a strong women's rights voting record, replaces Rep. David Bonior (D-MI), an anti-choice vote. Pelosi noted her new role saying, "We made history. Now we have to make progress."

Feminist Majority Report, Winter 2001

MANY BUSH COURT NOMINEES ANTI-WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Continuing his efforts to stack federal courts with "strict constructionists" like Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, Bush has appointed 23 nominees to the Federal Courts of Appeals thus far, including many leading anti-women's rights nominees. One example is John Roberts for the Fourth Circuit District of Columbia. Appointee Roberts signed a brief that calls for *Roe v. Wade* to be overruled and has argued against civil rights laws being used to protect abortion clinics from Operation Rescue.

Even though there is strong Republican pressure to move Bush's appointments more quickly, Democrats remain persistent in their demand for moderate political nominees.

Feminist Majority Report, Winter 2001

PRO-CHOICE FORCES WIN ONE!

Ruling unanimously in favor of the National Organization of Women (NOW), the Seventh Court of Appeals found that anti-abortion extremists in a civil case conspired illegally to close reproductive health clinics in violation of the Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO). The defendants' claim of First Amendment protection was rejected in the case following 15 years of litigation.

Feminist Majority Report, Winter 2001

BUSH SEEKS TO END FAMILY PLANNING WAIVERS

As Clinton was leaving office, NYS applied for an 1115 Waiver to extend family planning coverage for all women up to 200% of poverty. The stipulation in granting these waivers was that they be budget neutral. With Tommy Thompson as head of the Dept. of Health and Human Services the NY waiver appeared to be slated for approval. In July 2001, the Bush Administration denied Georgia's request to provide services for Medicaid-eligible women for two years postpartum because they said that they wanted comprehensive health expansion instead. NY was told that its waiver also would be rejected because it was not comprehensive.

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America went into action at that point, as did Senators Schumer and Clinton and other

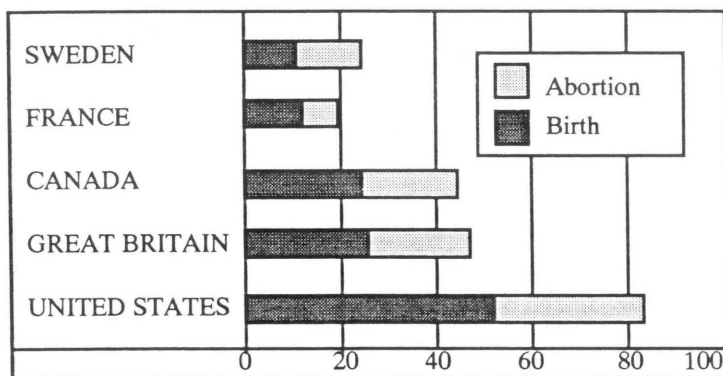
NEW AGI STUDY:

"CAN MORE PROGRESS BE MADE?"

A new study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI) found that compared with adolescents in other wealthy Western nations, U.S. teens have the highest birth rate (despite dramatic decreases in U.S. teenage pregnancy rates and birthrates over the past decade), lowest contraceptive use, least ease of access to reproductive health services and least social support.

One major conclusion from the study is that societal acceptance of sexuality among young people, combined with comprehensive and balanced information about sexuality and clear expectations about commitment and prevention of childbearing and STDs within teenage relationships, are hallmarks of countries with low levels of adolescent pregnancy, child-bearing and STDs.

U.S. TEENAGERS HAVE HIGHER PREGNANCY RATES, BIRTHRATES AND ABORTION RATES THAN ADOLESCENTS IN OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES



Rates per 1,000 women aged 15-19 FPA Albany Memo 2001

CALENDAR

- January 22, 2002 Anniversary of Roe Vs. Wade, Landmark Supreme Court decision in 1973 affirming a woman's right to choose abortion.
- May, 2002 School Board Elections
- November, 2002 General Elections for state and federal positions

EXPANDING FAMILY PLANNING

Family Planning Advocates, Planned Parenthood Federation of America and allies launched a major national rescue operation in July to beat back a Bush Administration stealth attack on family planning. Within three weeks, the administration retreated, at least in part because of that effective campaign.

The fight was, and is, about state efforts to expand Medicaid programs to serve more working women (and men) with family planning services. Established national policy allowed states to get 90% reimbursement for those expanded programs, and a dozen or more states have programs up and running, serving thousands of lower paid working women and their families. Another 14 states have applications pending. Suddenly, in early July, the Department of Health and Human Services began telling states they were out of luck, their applications were not going to be approved as submitted.

The administration steadfastly maintained that this new policy was not designed to kill off family planning programs, and was really an effort to promote primary care along with family planning. The problem was, rejecting all those applications could force states to go back to their individual Legislatures, causing years of delay. And in Georgia and some other states, this sudden policy shift would actually cut off family planning services from women already enrolled.

And on top of the President's Global Gag Rule executive order, and the anti-Planned Parenthood rhetoric from his conservative supporters, among other things, many advocates assumed that Bush was indeed attacking family planning.

A joint congressional protest letter signed by 84 different members, Republicans and Democrats alike, led by Rep. Joseph Crowley of Queens, and Nita Lowey of Westchester, along with Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton, had a big impact. So did major media attention and lots of grassroots contacts, from people like Lynn Greffe, national director of the Republican Pro-Choice Coalition. New York Republican Gov. George Pataki weighed in, and then, all of a sudden, the policy got pulled back.

"That's great news, but we're not popping any champagne corks until we see it in writing," said JoAnn Smith, President of FPA, which played a major role in organizing the rescue campaign. New York and other states pointed out that their voluntary family planning programs, expanding to serve women up to 200% of poverty in some cases, already contain major primary care components and provide HIV counseling and testing to tens of thousands of New Yorkers every year.

Final details on the New York waiver were still being ironed out at press time. Effective date: sometime in 2002

FPA Albany Memo Fall 2001

GRACIAS, THANKS and MERCİ BEAUCOUP TO:

Our noble treasurer and our new treasurer
Our typist, editors and "type-setter"

PLEASE RENEW

Choice


Cortland, NY 13045

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

May 2002
Vol. 11, Number 2

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

VOTE FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

MAY 21, 2002 — Noon to 9:00PM

Vote for School Board Members at your local polling places.

Be sure to ask their positions on comprehensive sexuality education.

A TRIBUTE TO MARTY LUSTER, CORTLAND ASSEMBLYMAN

Marty will not be running for Assembly this November. His impending 60th birthday, his family, his grandchildren played into his decision. The loss of his voice in the Assembly will be profound. No one has talked the Pro-choice talk and walked the Pro-choice walk better than Marty Luster.

Marty represented the city of Cortland, Cortlandville, and the whole of Tompkins County. There was at least one election, where we (Cortland Democrats) could not even deliver the majority of votes to Marty but he never took any one of them for granted. He was one of the few representatives who always made the drive to Cortland to hear from his constituents, even though our numbers did not usually make the win/loss difference for him.

He has been excellent for ZAP, Cortland's award-winning teen pregnancy prevention program, excellent in advocating for SUNY Cortland, excellent on Medicaid funding for poor woman's abortions, for the women's health and wellness bill, and every other women's issue.

We are extremely sad to see him go, but extremely lucky to have had the pleasure of being served by such a bright, thoughtful and energetic representative.

Thanks, Marty for everything.

EMERGING ISSUES

1. EC in the ER With the shepherding efforts from NYS Family Planning Advocates, the State Health Dept and the State Legislature are both working on getting all hospitals to offer Emergency Contraception in their emergency rooms for sexual assault survivors. This bill passed the Assembly (thank you, Marty) in January. The Senate is a little hesitant to push the bill because the Catholic Conference is probably still a bit miffed at them for their passage of the Women's Health and Wellness bill with a very small loophole (conscience clause)

2. This conscience clause wording in the Women's Health bill is currently being tested in California courts. One of the more powerful arguments being offered in supporting briefs is the fact that Catholic hospitals and Catholic Charities obtain considerable amounts of tax payer monies (more than half) and should not be promoting their religious tenets (no birth control for any of their employees) with that money.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION DEBATED IN FLORIDA COURT

Although the state's law requiring parental notification before their minor daughters undergo abortions has been on the books for nearly three years, court challenges have blocked its enforcement.

Seeking a permanent halt, pro-choice advocates argued in the State Supreme Court that the law violates the right to privacy guaranteed by the state's constitution.

In the proceedings Justice Leander Shaw quizzed John Rines, an Assistant Attorney General on what the "compelling state interest" was that justified the potential violation of a minor's privacy. Then Justice Peggy Quinn quizzed Rines further about what would happen to girls who decided to give birth, noting that "you still have no notification under those circumstances." But Rines responded that abortion "nearly always involves surgery, an invasive procedure...and that unless the parents were informed, they can't help them get over that surgery." Justice Shaw, however, responded that "risks of mortality or complications from abortion are very low." No timetable has been set for issuing the ruling.

The Miami Herald, 03-05-02

SURGEON GENERAL SATCHER ENDS TERM IN OFFICE

Pleading for a "meaningful budget" for the office, Dr. Satcher noted that President Bush's 2003 budget proposal would not cover the cost for even one of the office reports on such subjects as second hand smoke and mental health. He observed that controversy over his report on sexual health had obscured its public health message. The Times reported that conservatives were outraged "with its finding that there was insufficient evidence to back contentions that teaching abstinence delayed teenagers' sexual activity."

"The full message," Dr. Satcher said, "is we ought to stress abstinence for our young people, but we also ought to trust them with information about how to protect yourself and others if you are sexually active."

The New York Times, 03-09-02

AN ABORTION TIME LINE

Created in 1973 by Jimmy Kimmey, updated by Mai Hoang and excerpted from MS Magazine.

Prior to *Roe v. Wade*, Jan. 22, 1973, every state had laws regarding circumstances when abortions could and could not be performed. Despite this seemingly timeless history of abortion laws, until 170 years ago, abortion was a personal, not a legal decision.

1348 The abortionist's case helped establish the common law right to terminate pregnancy at any time.

1803 The first restrictive statute passed by British Parliament.

1828 American States restrict abortion, ostensibly to protect the woman's life. This followed the British example.

1849 Court ruled that the state's law was not to prevent the procuring of abortions, but to protect the mother against the consequences of such attempts.

1858 The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled in regard to the 1849 law that 'The design of the statute was not to prevent the procuring of abortions, so much as to guard the health and life of the mother against the consequences of such attempts.'

c. 1915 Joseph Lister's revolutionary surgical procedures were put into practice in hospitals, leading to decline in both abortion and child mortality. (Today properly performed abortions are only one-eighth as dangerous to the pregnant woman's life as childbirth, and even less so if performed in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. Thus, restrictive laws became unconstitutional by, in effect, forcing women to accept the more dangerous of two procedures).

1962 Public awareness is sensitized by the Sheri Finkbine case. Finkbine, informed of the danger of deformity to her fetus from her use of thalidomide, arranged for an abortion in Arizona. Local Catholics and fundamentalist clergy forced the hospital to withdraw permission. She went to Sweden where an abortion was performed and the fetus was found to be grossly deformed.

1964 A rubella epidemic broke out in the U.S. and became widely recognized as damaging to the fetus in early pregnancy. Many women, primarily those with money and/or influence; demanded and received legal abortions; but tens of thousands were prevented from getting abortions by restrictive laws and out-of-date attitudes. Two other sixties' developments contributed to the growing abortion reform movement. The civil rights movement highlighted individual rights which no state could abridge, and to many, abortion was such a right. Also, growing honesty about human sexuality made public and private discussion of abortion easier.

1970 Legislatures in Hawaii, Alaska, and New York, and electorate in Washington, adopted laws essentially making possible abortion on request.

1973 January 22, The U.S. Supreme Court declares the restrictive Texas and Georgia abortion statutes unconstitutional, overruling all state laws that prohibit or restrict a woman's right to abortion in the first three months of pregnancy. Dismissing the contention that the State has a compelling interest in protecting the embryo from conception on, the Court concluded that: 'In short, the unborn have never been recognized in the law as persons in the whole sense.' The Court also held that, at viability, if 'the State is interested in protecting fetal life... it may go so far as to proscribe abortion except when it is necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother.'

1976 Attempting to undermine *Roe v. Wade*. Congress enacted the Hyde Amendment, cutting Medicaid funding for abortions to poor women. In 1977, Rosie Jimenez, a single, poor mother, became the first woman to die as a result of an illegal abortion.

1989 In *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, the Supreme Court upheld the Missouri ban on the use of public employees and facilities for abortions, except in emergencies. This case marked the first time that only four justices voted to uphold *Roe* in its entirety—Antonin Scalia suggested that it be overturned entirely.

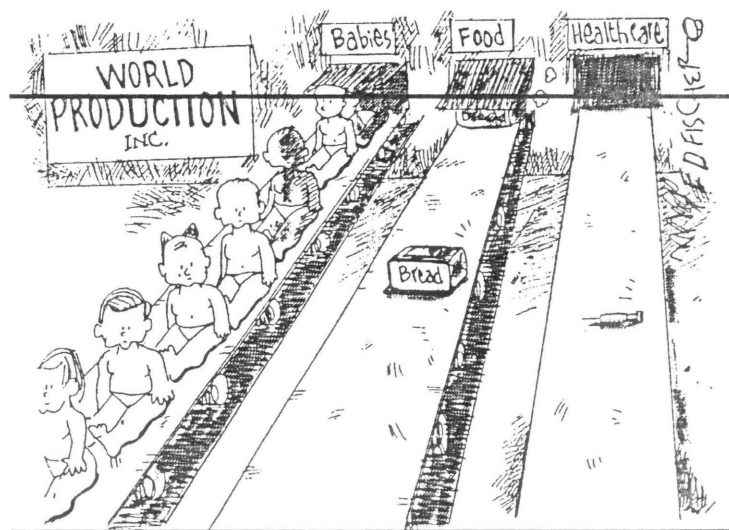
1990 Wichita, Kansas, 'Summer of Mercy,' saw tens of thousands anti-abortion protesters blockading abortion clinics, leading to 2700 arrests over 46 days.

1991 March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C. drew more than 750,000 pro-choice supporters on April 5th, in response to growing anti-abortion violence and backlash against women.

1993 Dr. David Gunn shot to death on March 10th outside a Pensacola, Florida, clinic, the first U.S. doctor killed in an anti-abortion demonstration. Since then, seven more clinic staff people have been killed and, at least, 17 wounded in shootings and bombings. In 2001, a free speech ruling by a federal appeals court allowed the "Nuremberg Files" website to continue publishing a "hit list" of abortion providers.

1994 In response to violence against clinics, President Bill Clinton signed the Freedom to Access Clinic Entrances (FACE), now an important legal defense against anti-abortion terror.

2000 On Sept. 28th, the FDA approved use of early abortion pill, RU-486, already available to women in 13 countries. But the battle continues as abortion opponents in Congress and the Bush administration plan to impose restrictions on its use.



"NOW" WINS A BIG ONE AGAINST CLINIC VIOLENCE

The 7th Court of Appeals upheld a national injunction against Joe Scheidler and his Pro-Life Action League (PLAL), a network of anti-abortion protesters known to have used violence and intimidation against patients and employees of abortion clinics. Since the injunction was entered in 1998, there have been almost no acts of force or violence by protesters. Faye Clayton, a Chicago attorney who successfully argued "Now's" class action suit against PLAL, likened them to al-Qaeda, "an enterprise of terrorists that operate in secrecy and commit acts of violence to intimidate people to prevent them from exercising their constitutional rights." Scheidler is expected to appeal this latest decision, and if that happens the case could go to the Supreme Court a second time.

National "NOW" Times, Spring, 2002

CATHOLIC CHURCH

In an article on Z-Net, Michael Bronski says the Roman Catholic Church functions with "a pre-modern sexual morality in the postmodern world. On topics such as masturbation, birth control, oral sex, premarital sex, reproductive technologies, abortion, and homosexuality, the Church has adamantly refused to move into the modern era and as a result has faced enormous criticism from both within and outside of its ranks." The Church's refusal to deal "publicly and honestly" with the scandals of abuse of minors by priests now grips the "U.S. church in a near stranglehold....the widespread abuse in the archdioceses of Boston has shocked even the most hardened and cynical church members and church critics."

Father Daniel Cousins, author of The Changing Face of the Priesthood, claims that the church is ecclesiastically schizophrenic in that it makes human sexuality a sacrament for married couples but remains so negative about the rest of human sexuality.

Bronski says that for 20 years, Cardinal Bernard F. Law has moved offending priests from parish to parish:

The archdiocese has quietly arranged out-of-court settlements, totaling between thirty to forty million dollars for at least seventy priests accused of child molestation, and on March 6 announced that they will pay a comparable amount to men claiming to be abused by John Geoghan over the past twenty years. It is estimated that these out-of-court settlements may end up costing the archdioceses over one hundred million dollars. And that is not counting any costs that may be incurred by future criminal cases. The fallout from this avalanche of scandals has been tremendous. While many of the settlements are covered by insurance, increasingly some insurers are refusing to pay claims stating that the problem was caused by negligence on the part of Cardinal Law and the archdiocese.

In Dallas and Santa Fe two dioceses have been bankrupt by sexual abuse claims.

As devastating as these scandals are to the Church, Bronski says that the even greater fallout will be the "incredible toll on the church's considerable political clout. Throughout the country, the church has been particularly successful in their lobbying efforts to block liberalization of laws concerning sexuality and reproduction." Last year, the NY Senate did not pass the Women's Health and Wellness bill, due, in large part, to a very aggressive lobbying effort by the church. The law would have required coverage of "artificial" birth control in employer prescription plans. That meant that the church as a major employer (Catholic hospitals, charities, HMOs) would have had to cover prescriptive birth control for its employees. Most sexually active Catholic women (75% according to the national Survey of Family Growth in 1995) use a form of birth control forbidden by their church. Not all employees of Catholic facilities are Catholic. Simply because one's health insurance Rx plan covers birth control, (or Viagra, for that matter) does not require one to purchase it. In obstructing the passage of this bill last year, the church was imposing its morality on all of us. However, this year, the bill passed!

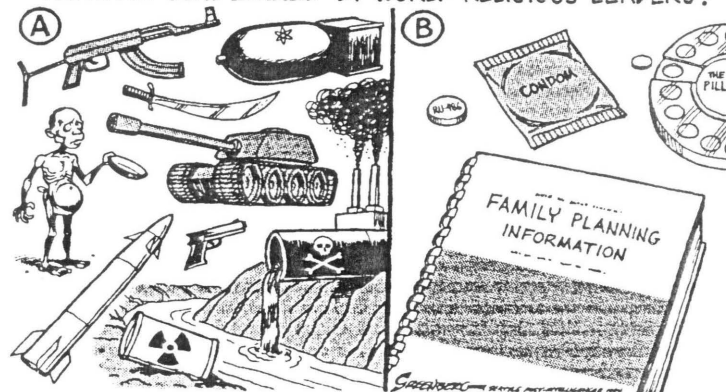
Perhaps the most chilling piece from the Bronski article, was a quote from a press release of the Catholic Action League, a public policy advisor group to Cardinal Bernard Law and the Boston archdioceses. "Since the 9/11 attacks, there has been a renewed clamor, particularly among conservatives and Republicans, about this country's high immigration levels, yet they refuse to recognize the root social and economic causes of America's

immigration crisis. The widespread practice of abortion and contraception has resulted in a below reproductive birth rate for the nation's European-American population....Laws and public policies which promote contraceptive use are a formula for demographic suicide and societal euthanasia'" (Our emphasis)

Bronski says that, clearly, the scandals "will increasingly hamper the American Catholic Church from taking the moral high ground on issues relating to sexuality, reproductive rights, sexual orientation, or gender." He notes that feminist activists and the forces of history have also brought change: Bronski quotes polls showing that 70% of churchgoing Catholics disagree with the church's position on birth control; sixty-three percent disagree with its teaching on divorce; fifty-four percent disagree with its prohibition on premarital sex, and fifty-one percent disagree with its stand against homosexual activity.

Source: "Unholy Influence: Sex Scandals and Political Power" online at Z-NET [Commentary 3-15-02](#)

WHICH SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL OVERPOPULATION SEEM TO BE MORE REGULARLY CONDEMNED BY WORLD RELIGIOUS LEADERS?



FASCINATING FACTS

The average age of the editors of this newsletter is 70 years old! So collectively, we have not needed "Choice" for more than 20 years. You could say that we are simply nostalgic for choice and that's why we keep writing. But we know that constant vigilance is the price we pay for justice because we lived through the '40s, '50s, and '60s — vigilance to assure that every woman has the constitutional right to privacy in reproductive matters.

We have seen numerous Choice newsletters fold in our 13 years. Your editors have toyed with putting our volunteer efforts elsewhere but in truth, our readers continue to send us money, so we continue to write.

Thanks for your comments. They charge our batteries. You seem to like our pithiness.

RESIDENT TRAINING IN NYC

Ob/Gyn residents in the City's public hospitals will be trained to perform abortions beginning in July under a program backed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Abortion training, which had been an elective in the 4-year program, will be mandatory, except for those who decline for moral or religious reasons, said Dr. VanDunn, Senior Vice President at the City's Health and Hospitals Corporation. "In the past, the residents would have to choose to do it," he said. "This way they know that it's part of their rotation."

[NYT 4-5-02](#)

RELIGIOUSLY AFFILIATED HOSPITALS

One of every five hospital beds in the US is in a religiously-sponsored hospital. After much consolidation of hospitals over the past decade, the religious hospital may be the sole source of hospital care in a community. There are 604 religiously based hospitals in the U.S. and 70% of them are Roman Catholic.

Sectarian and non-sectarian hospitals rely heavily on public funding. Medicaid and Medicare provided one-half of the revenues of religiously-sponsored hospitals in 1998. The other half was provided by insurance companies and other third party payers; no revenues were provided from churches or religious sources. Like other non-profit entities, these sectarian hospitals are tax-exempt.

Serving the poor is the usually stated mission for religiously-affiliated hospitals, but as a group, they lag far behind public hospitals in charity care and care for low income patients. Only 12% of their revenues came from Medicaid, whereas that percent for public hospitals was 28%. Public hospitals wrote off 5.1% for charity care. Religious ones wrote off 1.9%. Even for-profit hospitals provided a higher percentage of care to the poor when compared to religiously-sponsored ones

Despite huge reliance on public funding for patient care, construction costs and low-cost financing, many religiously-based hospitals see no problem in imposing their religious tenets on their patients, whether of their faith or not.

As would be anticipated, Catholic run hospitals usually do not provide information on emergency contraception for rape victims. Contraception, sterilization, abortion, infertility services, HIV prevention education, in-vitro fertilization, and genetic counseling are often banned. (The old adage is that Catholics can't have sex without babies or babies without sex.) Even end-of-life issues for non-Catholic patients in Catholic hospitals are subject to review by religious authorities.

Fidelis, the only Medicaid HMO in Cortland County, is a Catholic entity and as such refuses to cover birth control for those on Medicaid. (That certainly makes sense since surely everyone on Medicaid in Cortland County is Catholic and, undoubtedly, all accept the church's teaching on "artificial" birth control.)

Editorial cynicism

Source: "No Strings Attached: Public Funding of Religiously-Sponsored Hospitals in the United States", publication of the FPA of NYS

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail Checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vot
for candidates who also support that right*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions \$50 \$25 \$20 \$10 Other

Please note that contributions are not tax deductible.

CARDINAL SAYS CHURCH IS "UNDER SIEGE" FROM CONTRACEPTIVE BILL

This was the Cortland Standard headline of March 14th. On February 5th the N.Y. Senate finally had passed the Women's Health and Wellness Bill. The Assembly had passed the bill in January and in numerous previous years.

A portion of the bill mandated that church-affiliated institutions that provided their employees with prescriptive plans must cover contraceptives. Cardinal Egan stated that the coverage for contraceptives was a "lot of nonsense" and "humbug." The passage by the Republican-controlled Senate shocked the church and conservatives. Egan led a major lobbying effort to get the Senate to reverse itself but failed. The bill still needs reconciliation between the Assembly and Senate versions; but it is expected that the final "conscience clause" in the bill will exempt only the church acting as a church from the requirement of providing contraceptive coverage.

At a press conference on the bill, Egan and his aides needed to spend considerable effort to steer the press away from the controversies involving sexual abuse of children by priests, according to the article.

In a letter to the Cortland Standard in February, the Bishop of Syracuse, James Moynihan, objected to the required insurance coverage for infertility treatment and prescriptive birth control required of employers in the Women's Health and Wellness bill recently passed by both houses of the NYS Legislature.

He noted that people came to this country for religious freedom and that this bill is causing the forfeiture of those rights. The Bishop claimed that the bill was a "calculated plan to use the very controversial topic of birth control as a pawn to limit religious freedom." He noted that the church's teaching against birth control and sterilization speaks to a basic human rights issue. (Ed note: In other words, the fetus has a basic human right to be born no matter what the circumstance. There are religions that regard practicing birth control as a responsible expression of their faith and the gift of human sexuality.)

Rather than seeing this law as an abridgement of one's religious freedom, it is in fact preventing one religion from imposing its precepts on all others. There was a thoughtful response to the Bishop by Cortland clergy, the Rev. Charles Maxfield. He proposed national health insurance as the solution to the problem. How wonderful to think of solutions beyond the fray!

CALENDAR

- 5-21-'02 School Board Elections. Please vote.
- 9-1- '02 September Newsletter
- End of September Saturday — Women's Coalition "Meet the Candidate" Brunch at Pomeroy Place
- 11-1-'02 November Newsletter with candidate poll covering the races for Governor, NYS Legislature and Congress.
- 1-22-'03 Roe v Wade 30th Anniversary — 30 years of safe and legal abortions

Gracias, Thanks and Merci Beaucoup to:

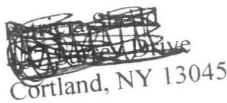
Our Treasurers

Our thank you note-writers

Our pot-luck parties who bring great food, good jokes and wonderful spirit to the mailing party.

To Ruth, in advance for doing candidate questionnaire layouts.

Choice

Cortland, NY 13045

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045
September 2002
Vol.11, Number 3

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

Meet the Candidates Brunch on September 21 at 10:30AM at Pomeroy Place

Tickets available at the YWCA for \$12.50 if purchased on or before September 14
and \$15 thereafter.

BUSH ADMINISTRATION BLOCKS MONEY FOR UN POPULATION FUND

Reversing itself, the Bush administration decided to withhold a previously approved \$34 million in aid to the UN Population Fund, contending that it provides money to Chinese government agencies that force women to have abortions or sterilization procedures in any such Chinese program.

In May, the administration, faced with accusations that the agency was complicit in China's coercive population control policies, sent a study team to investigate. It found no evidence that "the fund knowingly supports or participates in any such Chinese program...."

Rep. Carolyn Malony, D-NY attributed the White House's turn around to its "mindless zeal to take care of their right-wing base." Deal Hudson, of the Roman Catholic magazine, *Crisis*, praised the move and said that his information is that the money will be permanently withheld. He noted that the "UN population fund is bad policy because it relies on population control rather than economic development to address... poverty...the problem is not population, the problem is underdevelopment."

The New York Times and the Cortland Standard, 07/22/02

A Times editorial noted that "cutting off funds to the agency in an election year will increase the number of abortions worldwide by depriving poor women of the education and help they need." The money will go instead to the US State Department's Agency for International Development, "which cannot duplicate the work of the UN which operates in dozens of countries where the US has no aid presence. Thus, vital help such as the midwife training program in Algeria and a new AIDS center in Haiti are

suddenly without needed funding." The editorial concluded by pointing out that the "UN Population Fund is one of the most important forces at work today helping poor women. The United States should be supporting it, not undermining it."

The New York Times, 07/23/02

WHEN IS A SUPREME COURT RULING NOT A SUPREME COURT RULING?

"A woman's right to have an abortion 'is not subject to being vetoed by a woman's husband or partner'," said Pennsylvania Common Pleas Judge Michael Conahan as he dissolved an injunction and lawsuit which would have forced 23-year old Tanya Meyers to carry to term the fetus conceived with her ex-boyfriend, John Stachokus. Obviously the judge that issued the injunction was substituting his personal opinion for judicial precedent – he did not understand the law. This case should never have come to court. These types of requests are repeatedly rejected in courts across the country. Ed note: We feel that fathers should have some say in reproductive choices, about 49%. Consider the father's right to demand that she have an abortion.

The media has had a field day with this story. Stachokus has been on the morning TV shows, and the father's rights and anti-abortion folks are up in arms. One of Meyers' friends had raised thousands of dollars for Meyers to raise the child. Stachokus offered to take full or partial custody of the child. Meyers had filed a protection from abuse order from Stachokus. She said that he had threatened and harassed her since their breakup.

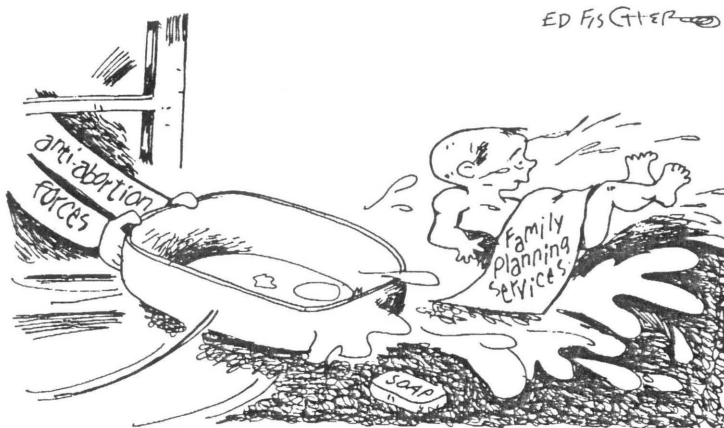
Meyers has since miscarried the fetus, but this case stresses the importance of Bush's judicial appointments.

"The committee vote was on pure party lines. Senators Montgomery, Oppenheimer, Smith, and Santiago voted against the nomination and spoke out about choice issues. Senator Dollinger of Monroe County voted without recommendation but voiced his strong concerns, again on choice."

The full Senate voted for this appointment in April!

Family Planning Advocates of NYS

*Post-Bulletin Company
Rochester, MN*



ABORTION TRAINING NEEDED FOR FUTURE OB-GYNs

With 84 percent of counties in the nation, and 94 percent outside metropolitan areas having no abortion providers, those who train physicians are recognizing the need to teach the procedure. Specifically, in July 2002, New York became the first city "to require abortion technique as a standard part of training for ob-gyn residents at public hospitals." Those residents objecting on religious or moral grounds can be excused.

In other places, as well, such instruction is on the rise following, in 1996, the "Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education requirement that ob-gyn programs include family planning and abortion training for its students."

In New York City, residents learn how to do D & C and abortion procedures, as well as being trained to provide medical abortion using the drug mifepristone, known as RU-486.

Dr. Wendy Chevin, a professor of public health and gynecology at Columbia University, has noted that "being able to perform abortions is more than just learning to do a D & C."

The New York Times, 06/11/02

AT LONG LAST KOPP FACES COURT TRIAL

Following a two and-a-half year manhunt covering New Jersey, Ireland and France, James C. Kopp, accused murderer of Dr. Barnett Slepian, was extradited and returned to the U.S. It will be recalled that the doctor was slain in the kitchen of his Amherst, N.Y. home by a sniper in the presence of his wife and two of his four sons.

Kopp, who took the nickname 'Atomic Dog,' is also a suspect in three nonfatal shootings of doctors in Canada. He faces a maximum sentence of life without parole on federal charges and 25 years to life on the state charges. Officials agreed to hold the state trial first.

Both pro-choice and anti-abortion advocates will follow the trials closely. "Kate Michelman, president of NARAL, commented that 'finding Kopp guilty might not necessarily prevent more violence, but by holding him accountable...it sends a message you will be found, you will be convicted and you will lose your freedom.'" On the other hand, the Rev. Flip Benham, national director of Operation Rescue, "said he was glad James Kopp will be able to prove his innocence and frustrate abortion rights advocates' attempts to paint 'Christians as violent and wild-eyed lunatics.'"

The Buffalo GYN Women's Clinic where Dr. Slepian worked part-time found a replacement after struggling initially, and the clinic has resumed his work.

The New York Times, 07/25/02

FEDS WANT KOPP'S DNA

The federal prosecutors, following NYS tactics, are requesting DNA and hand writing samples, "source documents" from James Kopp, accused of second degree murder in the death of Dr. Barnett Slepian. The defense is objecting. A District Court decision is pending August 9th.

Cortland Standard, Aug 3, 2002

A RECYCLED ABORTION BILL — IT MUST BE ELECTION TIME

For the sixth time since 1995 the House has passed a bill 274-151, to outlaw a late-term abortion procedure medically termed "intact D & X procedure" but referred to by antis as "partial birth abortion." The Senate has three times passed forms of the ban that were vetoed by then President Clinton and sustained by the Senate.

This year Bush would sign the bill into law if advocates can get the bill through the Senate. The House vote on July 24th was the first since the Supreme Court in 2000 overturned the Nebraska law that banned the procedure, thus invalidating similar laws in 30 other states. These laws were found invalid because they had no provision in the case of health risk to the woman.

The current bill tries to circumvent this lack by attaching "15-pages of Congressional findings that such an abortion was never necessary to preserve the health of the pregnant woman."

OUT OF WEDLOCK BONUS TO STATES

From the Welfare Reform bill of 1996, comes \$100 million in annual awards to the 5 states with the greatest reduction in illegitimacy and abortion rates. In a study conducted by Columbia University of Maternal and Child Health officials in the winning states, it was found that in 3 of the 5 winning states in 1999, no special program was undertaken to address out-of-wedlock births. None of the winning states had "individual responsibility agreements," (pledges to be chaste or to use family planning services) as suggested by the welfare reform law. Three did not have a "family cap" policy that excludes benefits to a new child to a welfare (TANF) recipient.

The Brookings Institute also found that there is "no discernable reason why some states win the bonus and others don't...."

The Center for Law and Social Policy argues that these bonuses would best be spent on research and demonstrations, technical assistance, funding and promotion of proven best practices related to teen pregnancy prevention – 80% of the nearly half-million teen births each year are out-of-wedlock.

Center for Law & Social Policy, White paper on Reauthorization Issues, Nov. '01.

ABSTINENCE-ONLY PROGRAMS

All but one state in the country (California) has accepted the "abstinence-only" funding from the federal government. This type of sexuality education does not give the facts. Nor do these programs work! A report by the recently resigned US Surgeon General Sacher confirms that medically accurate and age-appropriate sex education works in preventing teen pregnancy. Eighty-five percent of the American voters believe that all students should have age-appropriate information about birth control and the prevention of STDs. Yet Congress persists in its request for major increases in funding for the programs with no proven track record. Kids who attend abstinence-only programs do not wait longer to have sex according to Doug Kirby's Emerging Answers: Research Findings on Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy. The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, a non-partisan, non-governmental entity that works with the states, the federal government and the media, commissioned this book to show best practices in preventing teen pregnancy.

Planned Parenthood of NYC

MEDICALLY-ACCURATE SEX EDUCATION	VS.	"ABSTINENCE-ONLY" PROGRAMS
Abstinence		Abstinence
Contraception/Birth Control Information		NO Contraception/ Birth Control Information
Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases		NO Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases

THE MORAL CLOUT OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS SHAKEN

" 'As a Catholic, I agree with much of what the cardinal says,' says Nick Spano, NYS Senator. 'The difference is it's not up to us as members of the Legislature to put canon law into NY state statute.'" The Catholic Conference, the lobbying arm of the Catholic Church lobbies for "a broad range of bills, including opposition to both abortion and the death penalty, more support for Catholic schools, a higher minimum wage and more spending on the poor."

Dennis Poust, speaking for the Catholic Conference says that the "church itself has been tremendously harmed – the individuals and the families foremost....It doesn't help when we speak as moral leaders when there are such scandals. It's wounded us, the church as well."

Jay Gallagher, Gannett News Service

ANTI-CHOICE, ANTI-GAY PRIEST APPROVED BY NY SENATE TO SERVE ON CUNY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"Father John Bonnici, Governor Pataki's nominee for a position on CUNY's Board of Trustees, testified to members of the Senate Finance Committee that providing comprehensive health services is not part of CUNY's mission, and women in need of reproductive health care can get these services elsewhere in the community.... Senator Montgomery expressed her concerns to committee members regarding Father Bonnici's position, saying that many students rely on CUNY health providers....Father Bonnici noted that his positions are shared by many others.... all Catholics share his convictions in regard to abortion and contraception, he stated." He also said that "anti-abortion and anti-contraception convictions are not monopolized by the Catholic Church, and are, therefore, not purely religious or Catholic issues." He stated that "many other groups share these same convictions."

"Father Bonnici responded to a few questions regarding human rights....[on] his views of homosexuality, he stated that he supports all human rights and feels that no person should be discriminated against. However, he testified that he had written a piece aimed at the clergy [that states] that gays and lesbians are 'intrinsically disordered' and he did not retract that statement. During the debate, Senator Oppenheimer noted that Father Bonnici has written a strong letter opposing gay rights. As with family planning issues, he believes that all Catholics share his convictions on this matter."

Supporters of the ban, led by Republican Senator Rick Santorum (PA), will press for a vote, while abortion rights advocates will depend upon Majority Leader Tom Daschle (SD) to prevent it from coming to the Senate floor. "A ban could pass the Senate since the last time it was considered, it passed 63-34 with 14 Democrats, including Mr. Daschle supporting it,"

Charges have been made that Republicans have brought it forward, knowing that it was unconstitutional, since it will soon be time for the November elections.

The New York Times, 07/25/02

BLOODY WEB SITE PERSISTS DESPITE COURT RULING

Neal Horsley, said that he would "add six bloody, baby-butcher judges to the Web site." Defying a court of appeals ruling that he could be held liable for making illegal threats to physicians who provide abortions, Horsley said that he would remain on line with his infamous Nuremberg Files Web site. This site hosts the "wanted" style pictures and personal information of doctors who perform abortions. Is this freedom of speech, or threatening doctors and inciting violence? The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals called it a "true threat." The doctors pictured on the site said that they feared for their lives, hired bodyguards, wore disguises/ bullet proof vests and told their children to crouch in the bath tub if they heard gunfire. Dr. Barnett Slepian's poster was crossed off this web site when he was murdered in Buffalo in 1998. See Kopp article.

Cortland Standard, May 17, 2002

ATTEMPTS TO RESTRICT MEDICAID FUNDING FOR ABORTION IN NY

Three days after the NYS budget finally passed in May, the NYS Senate passed a bill S.7430 to restrict Medicaid funding for abortion. This was an unnecessary vote in that this issue is dealt with in the budget process. The vote was 32 to restrict and 26 opposed to the restriction. Senator Seward was not present for the vote but his office said that he would have voted with us. On May 17, the Assembly brought a similar bill to a vote. It failed to pass.

Family Planning Advocates email

CHOICE REPUBLICANS

Representative Jim Greenwood was the recipient of the Republican Pro-Choice Coalition Congressional Leadership Award presented at their 2nd annual national conference. In accepting the award, he said, "what my gut tells me is that the Republican party will survive if and only if it goes back and gets those soccer moms in those suburbs, if it changes its tune on guns, changes its tune on the environment and certainly if it changes its tune on abortion. We are not talking about radical ideas. We're talking about where mainstream America is and showing a little guts and a little leadership and a little brain power and a little creativity. That will be the way to save this party."

Voice For Choice, newsletter of the RPCC

CONGRATULATIONS TO FPA OF NYS!!
TWENTY-FIVE SUCCESSFUL YEARS ADVOCATING FOR
FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES!! WE COULDN'T HAVE
DONE WHAT WE'VE DONE WITHOUT YOU. THANKS
FROM THE WOMEN WHO MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE
VOICE TO IT BUT WHO HAVE BENEFITTED BECAUSE
THEY HAD ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL AND CHOICE.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$10 ☐ Other

Contributions are NOT tax deductible

CALENDAR

- August 16 - Last day to register to vote in primary
- September 10 - Primary
- September 21 - Meet the Candidates Brunch at Pomeroy Place at 10:30am.
- Oct 11 - Last day to register to vote in general election
- Oct 22 - Next Choice Newsletter, The Election Issue
- Nov 5 - Election Day, VOTE YOUR CHOICE
- Jan 22, 2003 - Roe V Wade Anniversary

GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCI BEAU COUP TO:

- All those who have sent contributions—you keep us going even when we are old and tired!
- Loyal mail party workers at the Pot Luck Dinners
- The Editors, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Post Care Mailers and the READERS, especially those who give us feedback.

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045
November 2002
Vol.11, Number 4

VOTE AND THE CHOICE IS YOURS

NOVEMBER 5TH — 6AM to 9PM

See Enclosed Election Guide

US FUNDING TO UN POPULATION FUND REDIRECTED

The Bush administration yesterday formally redirected \$34 million in funding from the U.N. Population Fund to the U.S. Agency for International Development's Child Survival and Health Programs Fund. The move was executed through a memorandum from President Bush to Secretary of State Colin Powell according to Lindlaw, AP/Contra Costa Times. The \$34 million in international family planning funding was originally appropriated to UNFPA in a \$15.4 billion fiscal year 2002 foreign operations bill that was approved by Congress and signed by President Bush in January. However, the Bush administration in July decided to permanently withhold the funding from UNFPA, citing allegations that the organization "tacitly perpetuates a 'one-child' policy in China that has led to abortions and sterilizations against women's will" (Kaiser Daily Reproductive Health Report, 8/23/02). According to the administration, decisions about which nations will receive the USAID program funds will be made "on a country-by-country basis," and the money will be used for contraceptives and other reproductive health services, the AP/Contra Costa Times reports. Opponents of Bush's decision, including Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.), said that they will continue their efforts to reinstate funding for UNFPA programs (AP/Contra Costa Times, 10/1).

Kaiser Family Foundation web page

NEW BOOK

Our Choices, Our Lives: Unapologetic Writings on Abortion edited by Krista Jacob has an article by Binghamton's Peg Johnston, Director of the Southern Tier Women's Services. Comprised of personal essays, poems and prose, this is a powerful collection of writings on the issue.

VOTE

JUDGE RULES WOMAN CAN HAVE ABORTION OVER EX-BOY FRIEND'S COURT ORDER.

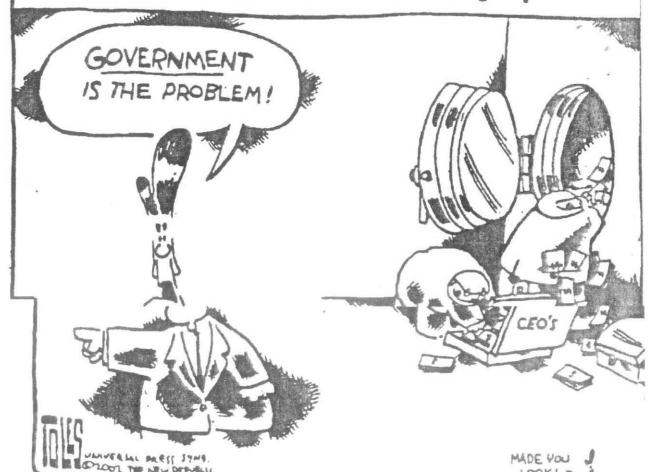
Luzerne County Pennsylvania Judge Conahan dissolved a temporary injunction issued against a 23 year-old woman by another judge the week before. The lawsuit filed by an ex-boyfriend would have forced her to carry the fetus to term. (Ed Note: Consider the case if he had wanted her to have an abortion.) The woman was 10 weeks pregnant and apparently has since miscarried. She had filed an order of protection against this man who apparently had threatened and harassed her since their breakup.

www.Law.com10-3-02

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Nita Lowey and Dick Gephardt or Dick Army and Tom Delay? A shift of 6 seats in the House could make this change in leadership from far right to moderate. There is a tight race in Central NY — Walrath and Boelher are as opposite as can be on choice. See enclosed election guide.

The preceding 22 years. A synopsis.



A "PROJECT VOTE SMART" OUTRAGE

Do voters have the right to know where candidates stand on various issues? Every other year the Cortland Women's Coalition surveys candidates for state and national offices. Surveys are sent to the candidates by e-mail and snail mail. They have ample time to complete them by the deadline but still the candidates have to be chided three and four times to complete the surveys. *See enclosed survey.*

At the national level there is an incredibly ambitious project to survey all candidates for national office, Project Vote Smart (www.vote-smart.org). Here is what has happened to them. Political party consultants have begun advising candidates not to provide issue information, and they are adhering to threat advice in greater numbers than ever before. Here are several comments from candidates: "It is our job to win, not to educate'." "We don't need to answer, people don't care and won't use it unless it comes with a free ginzu knife'."

Project Vote Smart

STOP BUSH FROM STACKING THE COURTS

There have already been 50 federal judges appointed by the President. He is working hard to name extremely conservative people. These are lifetime appointments. Remember that Bush's favorite Supreme Court Justices are Scalia and Thomas. Write to Senator Clinton or call 202-224-4451 to reject those who would roll back established protections.

NEW JERSEY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WINS TOP ESSAY AWARD

In a contest sponsored by the John F. Kennedy Library, 17 year-old senior Emily Ullman was honored for her prize-winning entry in the Profile of Courage Essay Contest. The annual contest requires an essay about a political issue at the local, state or national level and an elected US official who acted courageously to address that issue.

Ms. Ullman's winning essay on the late NY Assemblyman George M. Michaels "who, on April 9, 1970, changed his original 'no' vote to a 'yes' vote, thereby insuring passage of landmark abortion legislation that, minutes earlier, had been defeated by the vote of 74 to 74." Most believe that this act led to his defeat in his bid for reelection.

www.jfklibrary.org/pica_essay_2002_ceremony.html

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION — OVER-THE-COUNTER?

Seventy organizations filed a Citizen's Petition to the FDA requesting that the morning after pill or more accurately, emergency contraception (NOT to be confused with the abortion pill) be available without a prescription. Other nations such as the UK, Morocco, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Israel, Finland, France, South Africa, and parts of Canada have already done so. Some have suggested that abortion politics have stalled this petition at the FDA.

Among industrial countries, the US has the highest rate of unintended pregnancies — nearly 50% of all women have had at least one unintended pregnancy. Half of all unintended pregnancies (1.4 m) in a given year end in abortion. An editorial in the New England Journal of Medicine makes a strong case for this petition.

NEJOM Sept 12 2002

FROM MAUREEN DOWD:

"We may soon find out, if W. David Hager becomes chairman of the powerful Food and Drug Administration panel on women's health policy. His résumé seems more impressive for theology than gynecology.

'Jesus stood up for women at a time when women were second-class citizens,' Dr. Hager says. 'I often say, if you are liberated, a woman's libber, you can thank Jesus for that.'

A professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Kentucky, he has a considerable body of work about Jesus' role in healing women, and last summer he helped the Christian Medical Association with a 'citizens' petition' calling on the F.D.A. to reverse its approval of RU-486, the 'abortion pill,' claiming it puts women at risk. (RU-486 or RU-4Jesus?)

Karen Tumulty reports in Time that the F.D.A. senior associate commissioner, Linda Arey Skladany, a former drug-industry lobbyist with Bush family ties, has rejected doctors proposed by F.D.A. staffers and is pushing Dr. Hager."

NYT 10-09-2

BUSH ADMINISTRATION MAKES FETUSES ELIGIBLE FOR HEALTH BENEFITS

The government subsidized Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP), under new rules issued by the Bush administration, will now include fetuses. By redefining "child" as "an individual under the age of 19, including the period from conception to birth," the fetus is entitled to receive health care benefits.

Opponents point out that "when the Supreme Court recognized a right to abortion in *Roe v. Wade*, in 1973, it said the word 'person,' as used in the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, 'does not include the unborn.'" as advocated by those who have tried to establish a legal precedent for recognizing the fetus as a person. In so doing, the fetus could be seen "as a separate and legal entity, with its own rights.... By enhancing the status of the fetus, the administration undercuts a woman's right to control her life and to obtain an abortion."

The administration's rule will not cover postpartum services or follow-up care following a delivery, unless the woman herself is younger than 19. Gloria Feldt, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America commented that the rule makes "the fetus eligible for prenatal care, but treats the woman as a mere vessel, an incubator'."

The New York Times, 09-28-02

VOTE



Cortland Women's Coalition

14 Clayton Avenue

a non-partisan organization

Cortland NY 13045

American Association of University Women ♦ League of Women Voters ♦ SUNY Women's Studies Committee

Access to Independence ♦ YWCA ♦ ZONTA

2002 SURVEYS ♦ VOTE TUESDAY, NOV. 5 ♦ 6 AM to 9 PM

DO YOU SUPPORT:	HOWIE HAWKINS <i>Comptroller, Green Party</i>	ALAN HEVISI <i>Comptroller Dem., Liberal, Working Families</i>	JENNIFER DANIELS <i>Lieutenant Governor Green Party</i>	BARBARA LIFTON <i>125th Assembly Dem., Working Families, Tompkins Cty. Greens</i>	MICHAEL SIGLER <i>125th Assembly Repub., Independence, Conservative</i>	PAUL* THIESEN <i>125th Assembly District Right to Life</i>
1) Increasing minimum wage to \$6.75	Yes	Yes	Yes.	Yes	No	Yes
2) Pay equity & comparable worth measures	Yes	Yes	Yes.	Yes	Yes	Yes / No. Lengthy explanation. See full survey at YWCA.
3) A woman's right to choose to have an abortion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
4) Requiring health plans that cover prescriptions to include birth control pills	Yes	Yes	Yes.	Yes	Yes	No
5) Medicaid funding for poor women's abortions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
6a) Spousal consent for abortion	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
6b) 24 hour waiting period for abortion	No	No	No	No	No	No answer
6c) Parental notification for minors' abortions	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
7) Capital punishment	No	No	No	No	No	No
8) Universal health insurance	Yes	Yes	No answer	Yes	Yes	No answer
9) Ban on assault weapons	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
10) Legislation to increase election booth accessibility for people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11) Stricter CO ₂ emission controls on motor vehicles	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, will sign on to DiNapoli bill	Yes	No answer
12) What issues do you think are priorities for people with disabilities	Access to public facilities, anti-discrimination policies for employment & housing	1) Support for principle that mental or cognitive disabilities are just as important as physical ones. 2) Increase funds for community based care, training & pay. 3) Provide personal care services to those with cognitive impairments. 4) Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility to cover medication for psychiatric disabilities.	End corporate welfare so more state money is available. One million in state aid to gambling casinos and three billion to Wall Street leaves less money to assist those with disabilities.	Elimination of waiting lists for community housing, enforcement of ADA, access to services for the disabled in the most integrated setting. I support the Cahill Bill that would implement the Olmstead Act	No answer	Standards for personnel in health care
% women on Exec. Comm.	50%	Staff 50% female	No Exec. Comm.	over 50%	40%	No Exec Comm
Email / website	hhawkins@igc.org	hevesi2002@hotmail.com	jdaniels@twcnny.rr.com	www.barbaralifton.org	www.mike.sigler.org	No answer

* Thiesen has withdrawn from the race but his name remains on the ballot

GOVERNOR & ATTORNEY GENERAL CANDIDATES

Gov. Pataki and Mr. Golisano did not respond DO YOU SUPPORT:	STANLEY ARONOWITZ <i>Governor</i> Green Party	THOMAS LEIGHTON <i>Governor</i> Marijuana Reform Party	CARL McCALL <i>Governor</i> Democratic, Liberal, Working Families	MARY JO LONG <i>Attorney General</i> Green Party
1) Increasing minimum wage to \$6.75	Minimum wage should be \$10/hour. Need universal minimum wage.	I support the "living wage" which is more than \$6.75	Yes	Yes. Increase to \$10 an hour
2) Pay equity & comparable worth measures	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes. Move Div. of Human Rights to Atty. Gen.'s office for more vigorous enforcement of present law & broader interpretation of laws about wages & discrimination
3) A woman's right to choose to have an abortion	Yes	Yes	Yes. HMOs that refuse to provide family planning services to Medicaid women are discriminatory.	Yes. Active in reproductive rights issues & have testified to strengthen laws.
4) Requiring health plans that cover prescriptions to include birth control pills	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes.
5) Medicaid funding for poor women's abortions	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6a) Spousal consent for abortion	No	No	No	No
6b) 24 hour waiting period for abortion	No	No	No	No
6c) Parental notification for minors' abortions	No	No	No	No
7) Capital punishment	No	No	No	No
8) Universal health insurance	Yes	Yes	Yes. Would achieve it by simplifying enrollment, expanding eligibility for current programs and creating new ones that preserve employer based coverage.	Yes. Single payer system.
9) Ban on assault weapons	Yes	Yes	Yes. Strengthen by restricting sale of: ammunition magazines with more than 10 rounds, semi-automatic assault weapons, and 50 caliber sniper rifles.	Yes
10) Laws to increase election booth accessibility for people with disabilities	Yes. Will sponsor and support.	Yes. I would support and sponsor such legislation	Yes. Will support and sponsor.	Yes. I would support it.
11) Stricter CO ₂ emission controls on motor vehicles	Yes	Yes	Yes. Implement 4 pollutant strategy to reduce nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon dioxide and mercury emissions.	Yes
12) What issues do you think are priorities for people with disabilities	Employment discrimination, single payer health insurance including long term care funding, accessibility, universal access to high quality education facilities for disabled children	Adequate health care, in home care, access to public facilities & transportation. Prevent discrimination in workplace & elsewhere <i>Our party stands for repeal of Rockefeller drug laws, allowing farmers to grow industrial hemp & private cultivation of marijuana by patients & casual users. Physicians should be allowed to prescribe marijuana for patients.</i>	Implement Olmstead decision, increase accessibility in transportation, increase affordable housing, improve access to quality health care, accommodations for more job opportunities. High quality education would also prepare those with disabilities for better job prospects.	Access to health care, mass transit, and public buildings. Effective rights to workplace accommodations.
% of women on your Exec. Comm.	50%	2/3	No answer	50%
Your email address/website	saronowitz@igc.org	marijuanareformparty@att.net	www.mccall02.org	mjlong@clarityconnect.com

24th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CANDIDATES

DO YOU SUPPORT:	SHERWOOD BOEHLERT Republican, Independent	MARK DUNAU Green Party	KATHLEEN PETERS Right to Life	DAVID WALRATH Conservative
1) Signing Kyoto Treaty on global warming	I've supported many aspects of Kyoto & felt it could have been modified so implementation would not be so harmful to our economy. I've held numerous hearings on Kyoto as Chair of the Science Comm & will keep working to ensure global climate change is addressed effectively.	Yes	I am basically a single issue person speaking for the innocent preborn child who cannot speak for herself. I am against all unnatural death whether by abortion, euthanasia, death penalty, mercy killing or war.	No
2) Pay equity & comparable worth measures	Yes	Yes		Yes..
3) A woman's right to choose to an abortion	Yes	Yes		Limited right
4) Requiring health insurance that covers prescriptions to include birth control pills	Yes	Yes		Yes
5) Medicaid funding for poor women's abortions	Yes	Yes	I am for the rich being taxed more and for the common laborer to earn her fair share.	No
6a) Spousal consent for abortion	No	No		Yes
6b) 24 hr. waiting period for abortion	No	No		Yes
6c) Parental notification for minors' abortions	Depends on circumstances. Each case is different.	No	I am for people helping people and not relying on government.	Yes
7) Capital punishment	Yes	No		Yes
8) Missile defense system	Yes	No		Yes
9) The 1994 ban on assault weapons	Yes	Yes		No
10) Increasing minimum wage	Yes	Yes		No
11) Federal funding for abstinence only sex ed.	I've voted for funding on a pilot basis. Research on effectiveness of these programs is extremely limited.	No		No
12) Stricter CO ₂ emission controls on motor vehicles	Yes	Yes.		No
13) US membership in the International Criminals War Tribunal	No	Yes		No
14) Reauthorizing & strengthening Rehabilitation Services Act	Yes	Yes		?
15) Universal health insurance	No	Yes		Yes
16) Prescription drug benefits under Medicare	Yes	Yes		Yes
17) What was 2001-2002 federal budget for the military?	\$350 billion	Question 17 and 18 were omitted by mistake for these candidates		
18) What was 2001-2002 federal budget for education?	\$44 billion			
19) The U.S. public is most insecure about: a) terrorism, b) 401K/retirement plans, c) Social Security, d) Corporate crime, e) health care, f) the economy (g) Afghanistan war, (h) Iraq	Americans are concerned about all issues listed however, most immediate on their minds is likely the possible military action in Iraq. But I think a more overarching concern for most Americans is the high cost of health care and health insurance.	The economy.		The economy
20) I support a pre-emptive strike on Iraq	Question omitted by mistake. Boehlert voted "Yes" to give President authority to use force.	No		Yes?
21) My position on Title IX is:	It opened up opportunities for women & girls in education, including athletics. I am proud of the many achievements made since its inception.	I fully support it.		Supportive.
Percentage of women on your Exec. Comm.	2/3 of campaign staff & 9 of 22 on Congressional staff are women. My campaign director, district office director & legislative director are all women.	No Executive Comm		50% female Executive Com.
Your email/website	rep.boehlert@mail.house.gov	mldunau@ny.tds.net	kpeters6@rochester.rr.com	repwalrath@valdcom.net

123rd & 129th STATE ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES

DO YOU SUPPORT:	CHRISTINA ROSETTI 123 rd Assembly Dist. Green Party	NANCY SMITH 123 rd Assembly Right to Life	FRANCINE D'AMICO 129 rd Assembly Democratic	BRIAN KOLB 129 rd Assembly Repub. Conservative, Independent
1) Increasing minimum wage to \$6.75	Yes	Yes	Yes plus COLA	Yes, assuming federal minimum wage is increased first..
2) Pay equity & comparable worth measures	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
3) A woman's right to choose to have an abortion	Yes	No	Yes	Yes, I personally oppose abortion except for life of mother, rape or incest but I support choice because it is the law.
4) Requiring health plans that cover prescriptions to include birth control pills	Yes	No	Yes	Yes.
5) Medicaid funding for poor women's abortions	No	No	Yes	No
6a) Spousal consent for abortion	No	Yes	No	No
6b) 24 hour waiting period for abortion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6c) Parental notification for minors' abortions	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
7) Capital punishment	No	No	No. I support life without parole.	Yes but there should be a moratorium on current cases until all have been reviewed.
8) Universal health insurance	Yes under certain circumstances	Yes	Yes	No govt. driven universal health care system. Too costly and inefficient.
9) Ban on assault weapons	No answer	Need more information	Yes, plus ban armor piercing bullets	No. Description of assault weapons too broad and invasive on law abiding gun owners. Remove criminals and enforce current laws
10) Legislation to increase election booth accessibility for people with disabilities	Yes	Yes, would sponsor.	Yes, would sponsor.	Yes
11) Stricter CO ₂ emission controls on motor vehicles	Yes.	No	Yes, including commercial vehicles	Yes
12) What issues do you think are priorities for people with disabilities	No answer	Freedom from harassment, need cohesive system of services.	Access is key barrier. ADA does not cover private space. Employer discrimination continues. Media representation or lack thereof is problematic.	Help facilitate as normal as possible living conditions & support that provides assimilation into the community & allows people with disabilities to live in their own homes.
Percentage of women on your Exec. Comm.	No Executive Comm.	No Exec. Comm.	50%	75%
Your email/website	christina@rosettirosetti.com	sush178@aznet.com	damico4assembly@aol.com	kolbb@assembly.state.ny.us

ABORTION PILL UPDATE SLOW ACCEPTANCE BY WOMEN AND DOCTORS

In November, 2000, Mifeprex, the abortion-inducing pill once known as RU486, went on sale in the United States, following many years of struggle for its introduction.

According to a recent New York Times, it had been predicted that the drug "would change the politics and practice of abortion in this country." Such has not been the case, however, for while more than 100,000 women have used the drug since November 2000, about 2.6 million women had abortions during that time. And of that number "about half had abortions within seven weeks of pregnancy, the time when Mifeprex could be used."

In trying to determine why far fewer women have opted for medical abortions (those using the drug) than had been anticipated, several considerations were noted. First, doctors say "medical abortions with pills are more time-consuming and expensive than surgical abortions requiring three office visits over two weeks, two separate drugs, sometimes long-lasting bleeding and cramping, compared with a surgical procedure that is over quickly."

Other reasons noted were that doctors in private practice often do not offer the pill to patients because "they worry about malpractice coverage and reimbursement by health insurers." There are also requirements to be met such as "making sure the pregnant woman does not have an ectopic pregnancy," and the need for the doctor to be trained to use Mifeprex.

Others in the field have observed that, for a variety of reasons, it takes time for medical abortions to take hold (in the potential population of users).

The Alan Guttmacher Institute reported that "more than half of the early abortions performed in France, Scotland and Sweden were now done with pills rather than surgery but it took a decade for medical abortions to reach such levels."

As it stands now in this country, surgical abortion remains a less costly and less time-consuming option. However, the fact remains that many women are "still unaware they have any choice other than surgery to end a pregnancy."

The New York Times, 09-25-02

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO RANDY TERRY?

Remember him? He was the Binghamton used car salesman who led Operation Rescue, which blocked women's access to abortion clinics nationwide. He has left his wife and children and his church and he is off to Nashville to pursue a singing career. He says that he regrets his brashness as the leader of the movement and that he called for Nuremberg trials for abortion providers.

The Provider, The Newsletter of NCAP, July 2002

VOTE

2002 STUDY— MORE HIGH SCHOOL VIRGINS

According to a new report by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, over the past decade, the percentage of high school students who say they are virgins has risen significantly. "Last year the high school virgins outnumbered those who had engaged in intercourse, 54 percent to 46 percent." Ten years ago the percentages were the opposite.

The study revealed further evidence of more conservative sexual behavior. Citing the data from more than 10,000 self-reporting high school students the report indicated that "57.9 percent of those sexually active said they had used condoms when they last had intercourse, up from 46.2 percent a decade earlier." A decline was seen also in the "percentage of those who had had four or more sex partners, with 14.2 percent reporting in 2001, compared with 18.7 percent in 1991."

Laura Kann, one of the report's authors, noted that "we have less kids at risk than we used to have, given this combination of factors working together — fewer kids having sex, fewer having multiple partners and more using condoms." She added that "it's still too many..."

A combination of factors, most experts say, has led to a decline in sexual activity. Among them are "abstinence programs and fear of AIDS, and an increase in oral sex, which many teenagers regard as both less dangerous and less intimate than intercourse." The observers also consider that the prosperity of the past decade may have led teenagers to think "that they faced futures that might be derailed by unwanted pregnancy."

The New York Times, 09-29-02

BUSH's SCIENCE ADVISORS CRITICIZED

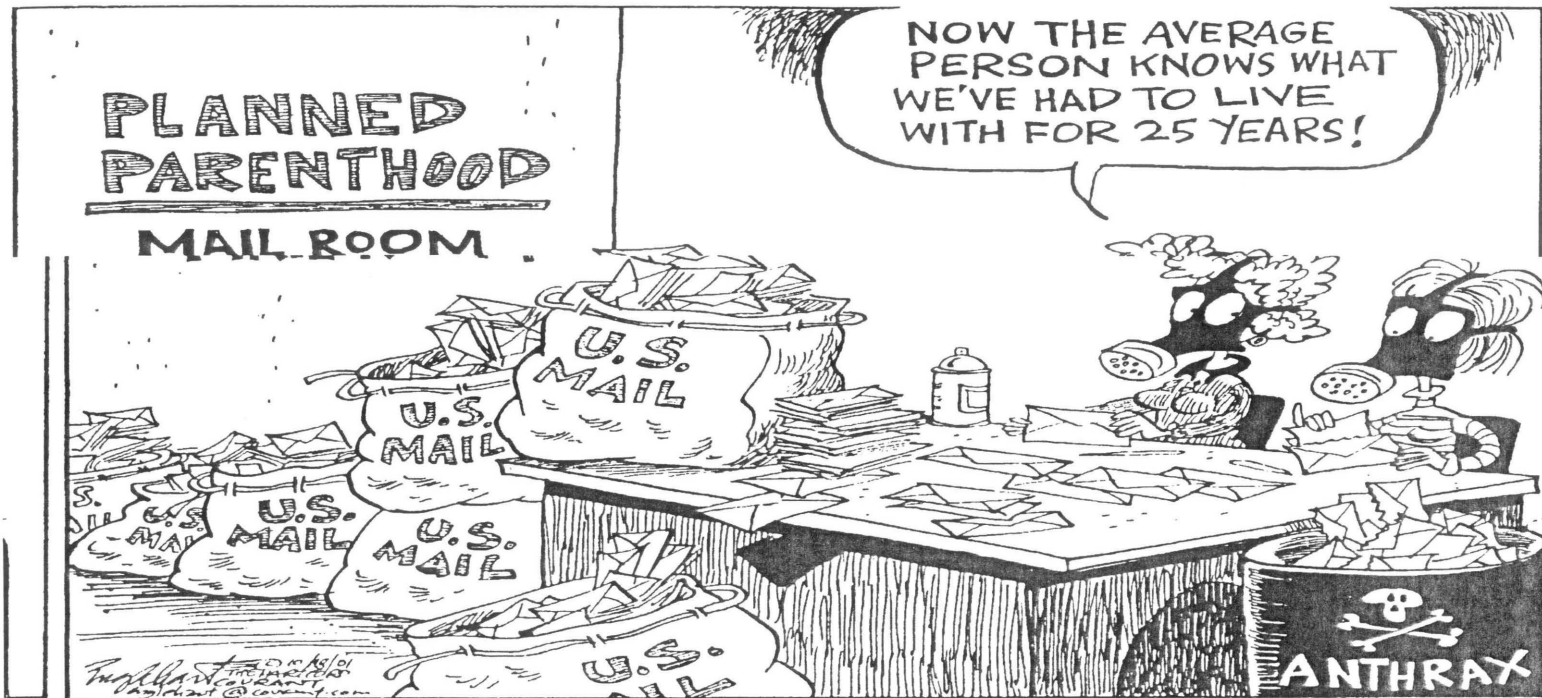
Democrats see the administration's choice of science advisors being based on ideology and ties to industry rather than scientific expertise.

One example is that of Dr. David Hager (see "Maureen Dowd" story, this issue). Another, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, currently considering "a toxicologist who has advised the lead industry for a panel weighing the contentious issue of whether the federal government should lower its acceptable limits of lead in the blood." The current member being replaced is Dr. Michael Weitzman, a pediatrician who has argued strongly that low levels of lead in the blood may be dangerous to children. He said he was mystified as to why he was not reappointed.

Tommy G. Thompson, secretary of health and human services, and his staff are reconstituting the advisory system "which consists of 258 outside boards and panels, and in any given year his office can appoint roughly 450 people." Such appointees are influential in shaping federal policy.

In an interview, Senator Hilary Clinton commented that "The pattern of actions we are watching is troubling. It's one thing to have a political perspective, which all of us do. Be we are going to be in trouble in this country if we start moving toward theology-based science or ideological research."

The New York Times, 10-10-02



OVER 7,400 WOMEN BECOME PREGNANT UNINTENTIONALLY EVERYDAY.
EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION (EC) COULD CUT THIS NUMBER IN HALF.
THE CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE LAW AND POLICY IS FIGHTING TO MAKE EC
AVAILABLE OVER THE COUNTER.

www.ReproductiveRights.org

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
P.O. Box 385 • Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I
vote for candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Contributions ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$10 ☐ Other

Contributions are NOT tax deductible

CALENDAR

- October 30—7pm Katherine Bertini speaks at the YWCA on World Hot Spots and the effects on Women, Children, Family and Community.
- NOVEMBER 5TH—Election Day—Poles Open from 6am to 9:00pm.
- Jan 22, 2002 - 29th anniversary of Roe v Wade, the landmark Supreme Court Decision for abortion rights.

GRACIAS, THANKS AND MERCİ BEAU COUP TO:

THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE SENT CONTRIBUTIONS.
THANKS TO ALL THE FUNNERS AT THE POTLUCK MAIL-
ING PARTIES.
THANKS TO RUTH FOR THE ELECTION STUFF.
THANKS TO THE EDITORS

Choice

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

C.C.F.C.
P.O. BOX 385
CORTLAND, N.Y. 13045

January 2003
Vol. 12, Number 1



JANUARY IS ANNUAL RENEWAL MONTH

We want to know who your friends are!
Help us build a larger grassroots movement for
choice. PLEASE send names/addresses with your
membership form

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"To those of you who scare people with phantoms of lost liberty, you are aiding the enemy. You are helping the terrorists."
Att. Gen John Ashcroft

ROE V. WADE

On the 30TH Anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, here is word from a one of our members who now teaches in England. "The nurses I teach at the University love the Choice Newsletter but can't believe how we have to fight to keep reproductive freedom in the USA."

CURRENT COURT STANDINGS

ANTI-CHOICE JUSTICES: Rehnquist age 77, Scalia 66, Thomas 54

MIXED RECORD: Kennedy 66, O'Connor 72, Souter 63

PRO-CHOICE JUSTICES: Breyer 64, Ginsberg 69, and Stevens 82.

PRO-CHOICE VOTERS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER

The Supreme Court could be one vote away from overturning Roe v. Wade. Several of the Justices who have upheld a woman's right to choose are older and in ill health.

With claims of an election mandate, the Bush Administration is chomping at the bit to please his right wing constituency. Here are a few things that raise the red flag:

1. "The government has sent taxpayer money from its child support programs to religious and nonprofit organizations so they can promote marriage – reflecting chief elements of President Bush's faith-based initiative." More than a half a million dollars from the \$2.2 M of the nation's child support system is being diverted to "emphasize the importance of healthy marriage."

01-03-03 Cortland Standard

2. From the Republican Pro-Choice Coalition: "President Bush is proposing \$135 M in funding for 'abstinence only' sex education, education that does nothing to educate our young people on methods for the prevention of pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. It is really an outrage to think that tax dollars will be spent for 'half a message' while so many children are at risk." Not only will kids be left behind – they are left in the dark as well.

3. The religious conservatives take credit for the new Republican Congress. "We know that abortion issue was the number two issue that prompted voter turnout in Minnesota, #3 issue in Missouri, and we know 76% of self-identified religious conservatives in Georgia voted for Saxby Chambliss. In no small part, the favorable outcome of this election for Republicans is a consequence of motivated pro-life voters who turned out at the polls." The upshot of this will be that religious conservatives will pressure Congress for four big pieces of legislation: "partial birth" abortion ban, a cloning ban, passage of the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act and the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. "We should have no illusions about the purposes of this bill," said Representative Jerrold L. Nadler, Democrat of New York, about the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. "It is another battle in the war of symbols in the abortion debate, in which opponents of a woman's right to choose attempt to portray fetuses, from the earliest moments of development, as children."

New York Times & Washington Post 11-12-02

TWO STATES ALLOW Emergency Contraception (EC) OVER THE COUNTER

California joins Washington State in making EC available at pharmacies without a prescription.

MAYOR BLOOMBERG, A HERO

NYC mayor Michael Bloomberg has mandated the improvement of training at seven Ob/Gyn residency programs in the city. This means that the most modern abortion methods and practices will become part of the residents' routine training.

BISHOPS SUE STATE OVER WOMEN'S WELLNESS BILL

According to the 12-31-02 Cortland Standard, the NYS Catholic Conference is suing the state to overturn a law passed recently that would require employers who provide prescriptive plans to include contraceptives. There is an exemption for employers whose mission is mainly religious — churches, seminaries, etc. Catholic hospitals and social services agencies, however, must abide by the law. Hence, the suit.

Ed note: *The bishops seem to forget that Viagra is covered in such plans, that not all people working in Catholic institutions are Catholic, that the majority of Catholics do not accept the Church's teaching on birth control, and that in the area of moral authority on sexual matters, the Catholic Church has lost some credibility for some people.*

ANNA QUINDLEN ON ABORTION TRENDS

Quindlen's column in the 10-21-02 Newsweek discusses the latest abortion statistics from the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the research arm of Planned Parenthood. The teen abortion rate has fallen by almost 40%. The overall abortion rate also fell. The only increase was among women below the poverty line. Quindlen asks why?

She cites another Guttmacher study to substantiate the teen abortion drop. It showed that three-quarters of teens report using birth control and the other quarter report abstinence. She speculates that welfare reform has something to do with the increase in abortions. Low-income women are working in low pay/no health insurance jobs. They no longer get birth control through Medicaid.

"These are good times for the development of new methods, from an implant that may work for as many as three years to microbicides that with prevent STDs as well as pregnancy. But is a bust in terms of initiatives from Washington..." From the insistence on abstinence-only (rather than comprehensive) sex ed funding to the inadequate funding of Title X Family Planning programs, the Bush administration defies the logic that birth control prevents abortions.

BEFORE AND AFTER THE 2002 ELECTION – AN ANALYSIS OF POSITIONS

LEGEND	N	N	N	N	U	U	U	U
S= SENATE	Y	Y	Y	Y	S	S	S	S
A= ASSEMBLY	S	S	S	S				
H= HOUSE	S	S	A	A	S	S	H	H
b= BEFORE	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a
a= AFTER								
PROCHOICE	21	21	103	100	37	34	141	141
ANTICHOICE	35	36	8	18	47	49	223	
MIXED	11	4	40	26	16	17	59	
UNKNOWN	3	1						
REPUBLICAN	40		52	47	49	51	223	226
DEMOCRAT	30		99	103	50	48	211	204
INDEPENDENT	0		0	0	1	1	1	1

Three pro-choice seats were lost in the US Senate with the defeat of Carnahan, Mondale and Cleland. Conservative forces removed Trent Lott as the would-be Senate Majority Leader due to his comments about how great a president segregationist Strom Thurmond would have been had he won in 1948.

Lott had said that he would immediately introduce a "partial birth" abortion ban bill. We will see what Senator Frist will do. More conservative than Lott, Frist never voted in any elections until five years before he ran for Senate. Is he a construct of the medical industry? His funding sources give evidence to that fact.

LOTT

Tyler Lott Armstrong, Lott's daughter said the following: "My father is a wonderful man, who has always stood tall. The news-media has twisted his words. He has good character, he's a Christian man and a good man and has been a wonderful family man, with his children and all." What a nice tribute to a father spoken at a KKK rally on 12-13-02.

PICKERING

A majority of Senate Democrats and a wide-ranging coalition of women's and civil rights groups that include the NAACP, Planned Parenthood, and People for the American Way oppose Pickering's confirmation for the US Circuit Court of Appeals. Ithaca Journal 1-09-03 .

The Following Five Articles Directly From The Web:

1.CRITICS SAY GOVERNMENT DELETED WEB SITE INFORMATION TO PUSH ABSTINENCE

Information on condom use, the relation between abortion and breast cancer and ways to reduce sex among teenagers has been removed from government Web sites, prompting critics to accuse the Department of Health and Human Services of censoring medical information in order to promote a philosophy of sexual abstinence. Over the last year, the department has quietly expunged information on how using condoms protects against AIDS, how abortion does not increase the risk of breast cancer and how to run programs proven to reduce teenage sexual activity. The posting that found no link between abortion and breast cancer was removed from the department's Web site last June, after Representative Christopher H. Smith, a New Jersey Republican who is co-chairman of the House Pro-Life Caucus, wrote a letter of protest to Secretary Tommy Thompson calling the research cited by the National Cancer Institute "scientifically inaccurate and misleading to the public."

11-25-02 By Adam Clymer

Addendum from the NY Times 11-26-02

In another case regarding the effectiveness of condoms in preventing HIV transmission, a DHHS spokesperson declared the deletion had been one made by the Center for Disease Control. The CDC however had previously declared the removal had been a joint decision by the DHHS and the CDC.

In yet another case, the CDC web site containing information to discourage teenage sexual activity included some material mentioning abstinence and one item mentioning condoms. The official response to the deletion cited the need to update the information, but a critic noted that " 'something doesn't need to disappear for a year and a half to be updated.' "

The War Against Women

Running for the White House in the fall of 2000, George W. Bush did not talk about ending the right to abortion. To avoid scaring off moderate voters, he promoted a larger “reverence for life” agenda that also included adoption and tougher drunken driving laws. Voters were encouraged to believe that while Mr. Bush was anti-choice, he was not out to reverse *Roe v. Wade*.

Yet two years into the Bush presidency, it is apparent that reversing or otherwise eviscerating the Supreme Court’s momentous 1973 ruling that recognized a woman’s fundamental right to make her own childbearing decisions is indeed Mr. Bush’s mission. The lengthening string of anti-choice executive orders, regulations, legal briefs, legislative maneuvers and key appointments emanating from his administration suggests that undermining the reproductive freedom essential to women’s health, privacy and equality is a major preoccupation of his administration — second only, perhaps, to the war on terrorism.

As the 30th anniversary of the *Roe* decision approaches, women’s right to safe, legal abortions is in dire peril.

President Bush’s assault on reproductive rights is part of a larger ongoing cultural battle. If abortion were the only target, the administration would not be attempting to block women’s access to contraceptives, which drive down the number of abortions. His administration would not be declaring war on any sex education that discusses ways, beyond abstinence, to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Scientifically accurate information about contraceptives and abortion would not have begun disappearing from federal government Web sites.

A big thrust of Mr. Bush’s aggressive anti-choice crusade has been to undermine the legal foundation of the *Roe* decision by elevating the status of a fetus, or even a fertilized egg, to that of a person, with rights equal to, or perhaps even exceeding, those of the woman. This desire to recognize the personhood of zygotes is part of the rationale behind the Bush policy prohibiting federal financing for research on all new embryonic stem-cell lines, despite the hopes that this research could lead to breakthroughs in treatments for diseases like Parkinson’s, cancer and diabetes. Tommy Thompson, the secretary of health and human services, was following the same drumbeat when he made “unborn children” rather than pregnant women eligible for coverage under the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

Mr. Bush has begun packing the judiciary with individuals whose hostility to *Roe v. Wade* matches his own and that of his famously anti-choice attorney general, John Ashcroft. In Congress, he backs a radical measure called the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act, which would further reduce the already thin availability of abortion services. It would allow government-supported health care providers to decline to include abortion in their reproductive health services. The providers could even forbid their doctors from mentioning abortion as a legal option to female patients.

Unsurprisingly, Mr. Bush is also a strong supporter of the other pending anti-choice initiatives, including the ban on so-called partial-birth abortions. Like so much of the president’s policy on this issue, the ban masquerades as a modest initiative that has wide popular support — eliminating already rare late-term abortions — while its actual effects are far more sweeping. This effort to criminalize certain abortion procedures would actually restrict a woman’s right to choose abortion by the safest method throughout pregnancy. So concluded the current Supreme Court, hardly a bastion of liberal abortion rights sympathizers, when it rejected an earlier version nearly three years ago.

The effects of the new anti-choice agenda are also affecting women abroad. On his very first day on the job, the president reimposed the odious global “gag” rule first instituted by President Ronald Reagan, then lifted by President Bill Clinton in January 1993. It bars health providers receiving American family planning assistance from counseling women about abortion, engaging in political speech on abortion or providing abortion services, even with their own money.

In resurrecting the gag rule, the new president broadcast a disdain for freedom of speech to emerging democracies, while crippling the international family planning programs that work to prevent hundreds of thousands of infant and maternal deaths worldwide each year.

Most Americans would be shocked at the lengths American representatives are going to in their international war against women’s right to control their bodies.

Last year, Bush administration delegates to the United Nations Special Session on Children tried to block a plan to promote children’s well-being and rights, taking offense at language promising “reproductive health services.” This same crackerjack delegation also opposed special efforts to help young girls who are victims of war crimes — which most often means rape. The delegates were worried that the measure would be construed to provide these victims with information about emergency contraception or abortion.

The administration’s anti-choice obsession has also prompted it to freeze millions of dollars in financing for valuable programs run by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund to advance reproductive health and combat H.I.V. and AIDS.

Last summer, the president withdrew his support for Senate ratification of a women’s rights treaty that requires nations to remove barriers of discrimination against women in areas like legal rights and health care. Just last month, at a United Nations’ population conference in Bangkok, the American delegation made an embarrassing, and ultimately unsuccessful, attempt to block an endorsement of condom use to prevent AIDS.

On the surface, the Bush administration’s war against women’s rights is a series of largely unnoted changes. It is intended to look that way. In reality, it is a steady march into the past, to a time before *Roe v. Wade*, when abortion was illegal and pregnancy was more a matter of fate than choice.

People can debate whether Mr. Bush’s various efforts to dismantle *Roe* and block women’s right to choose around the globe flow from his own deeply felt moral or religious beliefs, or merely cater to extreme elements within his party. What is important is the actual impact of the presidential assault: women’s constitutional liberty has been threatened, essential reproductive health care has been denied or delayed, and some women will needlessly die.

CONDOM USE UNDER ATTACK

In a recent column entitled "The secret War on Condoms," Nicholas D. Kristof cited a campaign by "conservative groups in President Bush's support base" to discredit condoms. Evangelical Christians using E-mails have been disseminating such misinformation as condoms have "pores about 10 microns in diameter, while AIDS virus measures only about 0.1 microns." Calling this "junk science" Kristof points out that electron microscopes haven't found these pores.

One Catholic site asserts that "castration is the only guaranteed permanent contraceptive." A Texas radio spot broadcasts that "condoms will not protect against many sexually transmitted diseases," and the Human Rights Health Watch quotes a Texas school official: "We don't discuss condom use except to say that condoms don't work."

The writer points out that while President Bush "has not fully signed on," there are indications in that direction: at an international AIDS conference last month, U.S. officials demanded deletion of a recommendation for "consistent condom use." Fortunately other delegates refused to approve such a deletion.

In July, 2001, the CDC web site removed a fact sheet on condoms and replaced it with one that "emphasized they may not work."

Adrienne Germain, president of the International Women's Health Coalition, stated that "the Bush administration's position basically condemns people to death by HIV/AIDS and we're talking about millions of people"

Down from about 800 million condoms annually, the U.S. now donates only about 300 million a year to Botswana, for instance, with the highest rate of HIV in the world — 39 percent of its adults are infected — now receives so few that the "average man gets less than one condom per year from international donors."

Kristof concludes: "It's imperative that we get over our squeamishness, accept that condoms are flawed but far better than nothing, recognize that condoms no more cause sex than umbrellas cause rain, and ensure that couples in places like Botswana get more than one condom per year."

The New York Times, 01-10-03

IRELAND'S ASYLUMS FOR "FALLEN WOMEN"

A recent award-winning Irish film depicts life in Magdalene Asylums where "fallen women" were sent to live and perhaps to die in disgrace. Set up in the 19th century and operated by nuns, the asylums were financed by serving as commercial laundries for schools, prisons and other institutions across Ireland. Thirty thousand women over the decades were taken to them until the last one closed in 1996. Church pressure and a "stringent code of morality" sent young women to the asylums for whatever reason they had brought shame on her family.

The film, based on accounts from former Magdalene women, depicts their lives as days of unrelenting work, long hours without pay, and subject to cruelty, humiliation, ridicule, and worst of all, the total isolation brought about by being forbidden to leave the home or make contact even by letter, with anyone on the outside.

More than a million have seen the film since October, despite the Vatican's denouncing it as "an angry and rancorous provocation." Irish Catholic leadership has appeared to ignore it, perhaps as speculation has it, because of the many scandals and investigations in the forefront now.

Although fictional, the stories in the film are told of three representative girls taken to live in a house outside Dublin in the 1960's. One, at a wedding, lost her virginity when she was raped by a cousin; another, who lived in an orphanage, was taken to the asylum when she "was caught flirting with local boys through the gates of the orphanage;" a third is taken after she has borne a baby out of wedlock. "The baby is quickly taken away by a priest, despite the mother's desperate pleas." Since the film's introduction victims have come forward, "first in a trickle then in a torrent," leading to widespread "revulsion and anger in a country where church membership is still high even if attendance, and faith in the hierarchy are at an all-time low."

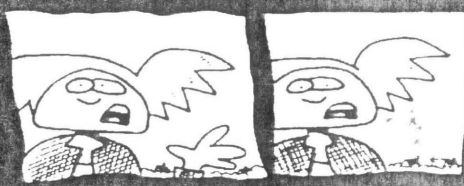
The New York Times, 11-28-02

HELLO,

REPUBLICAN-CONTROLLED CONGRESS!

GOODBYE, ANY
CHANCE OF REAL
CORPORATE REFORM.

SAYONARA, FREEDOM
TO MAKE DECISIONS
ABOUT MY OWN
DAMN BODY.



ADIOS, EVEN MORE
OF OUR CIVIL RIGHTS
IN THE NAME OF
"HOMELAND SECURITY."

AUFWIEDERSEHEN,
MIDDLE CLASS, AS
THE RICH-POOR
GAP GROWS EVEN
WIDER.

TA TA, WHAT'S
LEFT OF THE
ENVIRONMENT.



Two public figures commented on the U.S. Government's actions: Rep. Henry Waxman (D.CA) "We are concerned that their decisions are being driven by ideology and not science, particularly those who want to stop sex education. It appears that those who want to urge abstinence-only as a policy whether it's effective or not, don't want to suggest that other programs might work too."

Gloria Feldt, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America commented regarding the DHHS: "They are gagging scientists and doctors. They are censoring medical and scientific facts. It's ideology and not medicine. The consequences to the health and well-being of American citizens are secondary to this administration."

2. MILITARISM AND REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Lately, it seems whenever we need a reminder about why it is the U.S. should budget more national funds for the military, or take aggressive action in another small poverty-stricken country, the battle cry of equal rights for women is sounded by the most unlikely people.

When U.S. soldiers invaded Afghanistan in the fall of 2001 and unseated the Taliban, they were hailed as the liberators of Afghani women. Bush has repeatedly referred to women's rights in Afghanistan and Palestine as a positive outcome of U.S. intervention in those areas as well as in Iraq. If we are to believe what we hear, militarism is the true herald of feminism. But don't let the talking heads fool you. Upon closer examination it is clear that tanks and guns are doing more damage to women than liberating them.

Here are some reasons why:

1. Military toxins damage the environment and reproductive health.
2. Army bases increase prostitution.
3. Militarism increases violence against women.
4. Militarism cuts funding from social services.
5. The military restricts soldiers' right to abortion.
6. Militarism encourages a climate hostile to choice.
7. War kills people.

ZNet Commentary Prepared by the Population and Development Program at Hampshire College.

1-4-03 by Betsy Hartman

3. LIFE DYNAMICS AT IT AGAIN

Anti-Choice Group Set Legal Trap for 800 Clinics

The anti-choice group Life Dynamics Incorporated has secretly recorded telephone conversations with some 800 receptionists and staff at reproductive health clinics in 49 states and is using the tapes in a nationwide publicity campaign designed to discredit and encourage lawsuits against abortion providers, according to documents published on the organization's Web site. The Denton, Texas-based group claims that the tapes contain "evidence" that Planned Parenthood affiliates and other women's reproductive health clinics are complicit in child sex abuse, according to "Child Predators," by Mark Crutcher, founder and president of Life Dynamics.

Following a script, a Life Dynamics representative posed as a 13- or 14-year-old girl, and told clinic receptionists who fielded the calls that she thought she might be pregnant by her 22-year-old boyfriend. Pretending to be seeking an appointment for a preg-

nancy test or an abortion, she obtained from staff at the clinics a promise of confidentiality. Now, Life Dynamics claims in its report that clinics violated state laws requiring "mandatory reporting" of child sexual abuse.

Dec. 2002 by Frederick Clarkson for WOMENSENEWS

4. WORDS OF WAR FROM OUR RELIGIOUS RIGHT

Pat Robertson, the religious broadcaster – who used to run a vile radio station in southern Lebanon which uttered threats against Muslim villagers and UN troops – says that "Adolf Hitler was bad but what the Muslims want to do to Jews is worse." Jerry Falwell, one of the nasties of the religious right, called the Prophet a "terrorist", while Franklin Graham, son of the same Billy Graham who made those anti-Semitic remarks on the Nixon tapes, has called Islam "evil". And Graham, remember, spoke at Bush's inauguration 11-04-02. By Robert Fisk of the Medical Assoc. for Prevention of War, Australia mapw@mapw.org.au.

5. TELL THE SENATE TO REJECT BUSH'S JUDGES

President Bush shocked pro-choice Americans on January 7 by re-nominating two demonstrably anti-choice judicial nominees – Charles Pickering and Priscilla Owen. Last year, the Senate Judiciary Committee defeated these two nominees after carefully scrutinizing their records. These re-nominations are a slap in the face to the institution of the Senate. This is yet another attempt by the president to move his anti-choice agenda under the radar of the American public.

Pickering and Owen were rejected specifically because of their hostility to the civil and constitutional rights of women and African-Americans. That President Bush would re-nominate them in the aftermath of the Trent Lott debacle demonstrates his insensitivity to these issues.

Your Senators must hear immediately that all pro-choice Americans are outraged by these nominations.

Priscilla Owen repeatedly tried to rewrite Texas law from the bench to deny young women their right to choose. Charles Pickering led the Republican Party in adopting an anti-choice plank in their platform, calling for a constitutional ban on abortion.

CHOICE LEADERS OPEN NEW CAMPAIGN

The president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Action League (NARAL), Kate Michelman, has announced a multi-million dollar campaign to confront "the most hostile atmosphere for abortion in 30 years," making abortion a critical issue in the 2004 presidential election.

In addition to starting a multi media campaign, the organization has changed its name to Naral Pro Choice America, one observer noted that the new name will put greater emphasis on choice as opposed to abortion.

If president Bush should be reelected, abortion rights advocates fear that Roe v. Wade would be overturned by the end of the decade. Thus, the need to rally rights supporters will be a crucial aspect of the campaign.

A pollster for Naral Pro Choice America, Harrison Hickman, found that "there was a sharp drop in understanding the abortion issue among those who were children in 1973, (the year Roe v. Wade became law.)" Older voters will be made aware of the dramatic shift in the federal government's balance of power. For the first time since Roe v. Wade, both house of Congress and the White House are controlled by Republicans.

"The organization is inviting democratic presidential hopefuls to speak at its 30th anniversary Roe v. Wade commemoration dinner this month."

The New York Times, 01-05-03

GRACIAS, THANKS and MERCI BEAUCOUP TO:

- *Jane for writing all those Thank You notes
- *The two people who made very generous and loving donations to the Choice Newsletter in the name of their mother.
- *The brave and hardy pot luckers who mail out these newsletters.
- *The post card mailer
- *All our readers, especially those who send money.

CALENDAR

- January 22, 2003 30th Anniversary of Roe V. Wade
- May, 2003 Choice Newsletter with School Board Candidate Survey
- September 1 Newsletter mailed
- November 1 Newsletter with election survey
- November 4 Election Day Local Elections

UPDATE ON JAMES KOPP, DR. SLEPIAN'S KILLER

Maintaining that he "only intended to wound" Dr. Barnett Slepian, the Buffalo physician who performed abortions at a women's clinic, admitted in an interview with the Buffalo News that he did "not regret shooting Dr. Slepian. I regret that he died." He added that the only thing worse would be if he had done nothing, "and to allow abortions to continue."

He declined to say whether he had been involved in four similar shootings of abortion doctors, three in Canada and one in Monroe County.

It is expected that his admission and his abortion views will be the basis for his murder trial in Erie County which begins in February.

Cortland Standard, 11-21-02



A PIECE OF GOOD NEWS

According to the Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion, the Right to Life Party has lost its automatic ballot line for the next four years because "their candidate for governor failed to get the necessary 50,000 votes. The party's vote totals have declined every four years since 1994. Now, the only way one of their candidates can get on the ballot is to gather petition signatures for each and every candidate in each and every race they may want to enter!!! Their petitions will obviously be subject to challenge by any interested person. This, almost more than anything else that came out of the 2002 elections, shows the power of the pro-choice community. It is no longer a winning strategy for a political candidate to seek or accept the endorsement of the Right to Life Party."

REGISTER AND VOTE

Remember, if you have moved you must re-register to vote, even if the move is JUST next door.

PLEASE RENEW

SCHOOL BOARD & BUDGET VOTE MAY 20, 2003

Choice

May 2003
Volume 12
Number 2



A NEW LOOK FOR CHOICE We hope you like our face lift.

PRO-CHOICE AND PRO-FAITH

Too often "people believe that religion and morality are the domain of the anti-choice movement." This is simply not true.

The Clergy Consultation Service played a major role in helping women find safe abortions before Roe v Wade. They testified in the Roe case before the Supreme Court. "Most Protestant denominations have long-standing pro-choice positions, as do the Unitarian-Universalist Association, the Ethical Culture Movement, and many Jewish traditions."

The problem in today's political climate is that many Americans assume that religions are more sexually conservative than they actually are. Also there are splinter groups within the mainstream churches that are very vocal in their fundamentalist press for the erosion of women's reproductive rights. These groups join the Catholic Church in its sponsored anti-choice zealotry. (The Roman Catholic priests' sex scandals has no doubt dampened down economic resources available for this cause.)

The traditional pro-choice community has not always been comfortable with or aware of the religious

pro-choice groups. Yet the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice has been active for years. It is recently active in organizing youth, black churches and a Clergy for Choice national network.

Resist Vol. 11 #8 October, 2002

ABORTION FOR RAPED 9 YEAR OLD IN NICARAGUA

The daughter of a migrant worker, impregnated by rape, touched off an immense controversy when the family sought an abortion for her. When a committee of doctors couldn't decide, the girl's parents pulled her out of the government hospital and with the help of the Women's Network, she obtained an abortion. The Catholic Church was enraged, saying that all those involved in the abortion had excommunicated themselves. This prompted tens of thousands of women in Nicaragua and Europe to demand that they too be excommunicated. The Health Minister, who opposed the abortion, resigned citing the lack of Presidential support. The bishops issued an open letter comparing abortion to terrorists' bus bombings.

It is estimated that among a population of 5 million people, there are 36,000 abortions each year. The vast majority of them are illegal. Illegal abortions are among the leading causes of death in Nicaragua.

Ithaca Journal 3/24/03

THE USE OF RU-486 IN THE U.S.

An Alan Guttmacher Institute study looked at the use of mifepristone, or RU-486, since it became available in September of 2000. More than 37,000 abortions were performed using pills in the first six months of 2001. A total of about 130,000 women in the US have used RU-486. There is growing acceptance of medical as opposed to surgical abortion. However, RU-486 is still underrepresented as an option for first-trimester abortions (6% of all abortions). The drug can be used up to seven weeks after the beginning of a woman's last menstrual period.

The researchers noted that as the "U.S. abortion rate continued to fall to its lowest rate since the 1970s — 21.3 abortions for every 1,000 women aged 15 to 44, the number of providers who performed surgical abortions also fell." It is thought that the "decrease in surgical abortion providers may be offset by an increase in the number of providers that offer medical abortion," wrote the study's authors, Lawrence Finer and Stanley Henshaw.

January/February 2003 Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health

ABORTION DECLINE – WHY?

The approval of Emergency Contraception (EC) in 1998 has contributed to this decline as has the increase in the use of birth control and abstinence. The Alan Guttmacher Institute estimates that the use of EC averted 51,000 abortions in 2000.

ACTION NEEDED:

"Go to Joe" Ask Senator Bruno, the Majority Leader, to bring S.202 "EC in the ER" to the Senate for a vote this year. The Assembly has passed this bill already. It would ensure that all hospitals offer EC to rape victims when they are treated in hospital emergency rooms.

DR. FRIST'S RECORD ON CHOICE

At every opportunity, Dr. Frist, the Senate Majority leader, (who is a heart surgeon and not an ObGyn) has voted to deny women access to abortion rights. He voted to deny access to: the women in the military, federal employees, low-income women, women in prison and young women. He also is a big time supporter of abstinence-only sexuality education. He voted for \$75 m. to fund abstinence-till-marriage programs that only provide teens with how to say "no". There is no federal funding for comprehensive sexuality education — medically accurate, age appropriate information about abstinence, contraception and AIDS protection, despite the claims of the opposition that Title X funds such education. Title X funds the operations of birth control clinics. Of course these clinics educate their patients on birth control but Title X does not fund health education in schools.

COMPLACENCY—THE GREATEST CRISIS OF OUR TIMES

TEEN PREGNANCY IN CORTLAND AT ALL TIME LOW.

Back in 1990, before the national decline in teen pregnancy, a small group of people in Cortland decided to do something about the high local rate of teen pregnancy. The Health Department and Catholic Charities embarked on a multi-faceted prevention program involving religious institutions, parents, kids, the media and local businesses. ZAP or Zero Adolescent Pregnancy, as the program was named established the fairly gutsy goal of reducing the teen pregnancy rate one-third by the year 2000—100 TEEN PREGNANCIES BY THE YEAR 2000. Throughout the 1980s, 150-180 teens, aged 15-19 became pregnant every year. Cortland had the dubious distinction of having the highest percentages of repeat teen pregnancy in the state for several years running.

Emulating successful European strategies of free health care and good sex ed, ZAP instituted numerous programs. It made birth control services available to all high school aged teens at no cost. Then peer educators, ZAP-PEERS, were recruited and trained to work in the schools. Teachers were trained in effective sexuality education curricula (NOT ABSTINENCE-ONLY) and parents were offered classes at their places of work on how to talk to their kids about sex. Clergy and religious education leaders were trained using faith-based sex ed curricula.

There were only 104 teen pregnancies in the year 2000!! A community worked together to achieve these results. Many lives are dramatically different because a teen pregnancy — not a teen abortion or birth — but a pregnancy DID NOT OCCUR. This is true PRIMARY PREVENTION.

SCIENCE OR POLITICS?

Despite the published research that comprehensive sex ed. is effective and abstinence-only is not, President Bush pledged to increase federal funding for abstinence-only sex education to at least \$135 million a year. When he was governor of Texas, he spent over \$10 m. on abstinence-until-marriage education. It didn't seem to have an impact:

Texas has the 5th highest teen pregnancy and 2nd highest teen birth rates in the country. Their STD and AIDS rates are also very high compared to the rest of the country.

Abstinence-until-marriage is not a new curriculum. Since 1981 the US Office of Population Affairs has poured huge sums of money into promoting chastity and self-discipline. This Office has had plenty of time and money to research effectiveness and make it work. It has done neither. The only thing that it has done was to convince parents that chastity until marriage is a nice idea.

www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications

BUSH—NO FRIEND TO WORKING CLASS FOLKS

From the 2002 Guinness Book of World Records

"George W. Bush has assembled the wealthiest cabinet in American history by appointing more multimillionaires to the top ranking positions in government than any of his predecessors. Of the 16 full cabinet positions at the heart of the Bush administration, 13 are millionaires, 7 of whom own assets worth more than \$10m. His cabinet has acquired the nickname "tycoon's club." Rumsfeld

and (departed) Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neil each have declared assets of at least \$61 million while Colin Powell has at least \$18.6 million."

LOPSIDED VOTE ON LATE TERM ABORTION AND MORE HYPOCRISEY

On March 13, Senators voted overwhelmingly (64 to 33) to outlaw a rarely used abortion procedure, which abortion opponents inaccurately call "partial birth" abortion. With a Republican House, Senate and White House, this bill will surely become law. President Clinton twice vetoed this bill because it did not allow for the health of the woman. The Supreme Court turned down a similar law in Nebraska in 2000 for precisely the same reason. Bill sponsors think that they have solved that problem, by including Congressional findings that the procedure is never warranted for health reasons. There is an exemption if the life of the pregnant woman is threatened. (death, health – just a matter of degree, right?).

An amendment to the bill that would have required private health insurance plans to cover contraceptives was defeated. Senator Barbara Boxer said the defeat showed that the Senate Republicans were more interested in scoring political points on the issue than in really reducing the demand for abortion.

Whereas the Women's Health and Wellness law passed in 2002 in NYS requires health insurance companies to cover contraceptives, if companies are self-insuring, they do not have to do this. A federal law would have changed that.

N.Y. Times 3/15/03

CATHOLICS AND BIRTH CONTROL

When Pope Paul VI issued *Humanae vitae*, condemning the use of all artificial means of birth control, 600 theologians signed dissenting statements. The polls have consistently supported a "powerful demonstration of *sensus fidelium*, 'the sense of the faithful'" to make their own thoughtful and private decisions about their use of birth control. According to Gallop, 80% of US Catholics disagree with the statement, "using artificial means of birth control is wrong."

WHEN RELIGION COMPROMISES WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE

A white paper from the NYS NARAL affiliate states that the NYS Catholic Health Plan, Inc, known as Fidelis (why don't they use the former name?) is one of the largest providers of managed care to Medicaid recipients in the state. It also administers Child Health Plus—the health insurance plan for uninsured children. Fidelis is paid by the government \$150 million to provide health care. It is the only HMO that "carves out" (excludes) family planning and abortion services from its plan. Medicaid recipients and teens on Child Health Plus cannot use their Fidelis coverage to obtain birth control, sterilization or abortion. One third of the children on Child Health Plus are teens. In an effort to save money, HMOs were, by design, supposed to provide comprehen-

sive care. In extensive studies done through out the state, NARAL found that Fidelis members received incomplete and confusing information about the "carve out". They also found that they did not make timely or appropriate referrals as required by law.

Egregious examples of such lack of care were forcefully expressed by Fidelis members in focus groups.

One woman who was enrolled in Fidelis because the company purchased her health plan was told that she could no longer get Depo shots. "I complained to my doctor —'how can I go from getting shots ...to not getting shots? The fact is, you're my gynecologist and I should be having birth control or something.' He explained about the bishop and stuff..."

Another reported "I had a pregnancy test...and was asked if I wanted an abortion. When I said I did, they gave me classes and told me not to have one."

In terms of quality of care, NARAL stated that Fidelis was the only managed care organization in the state to rank (for four years in a row) below the state average in the ability to provide women in their first trimester with pre-natal care. They also performed significantly below the state average in the proportion of pregnant women who were tested for HIV. Their record in providing tests for early detection of cervical and breast cancer also was below the state average.

This is second-class health service provided to those who need and deserve fewer, not more, obstacles in their reproductive lives. Fidelis neglects the fact that family planning care is often very time sensitive.

\$15 BILLION TO GLOBAL AIDS

Nothing is without controversy in the Bush administration. In his State of the Union address the President promised to spend \$15 billion for global AIDS programs over the next 5 years. Surprisingly, this would include prevention (condoms and not just abstinence preaching) and treatment for people with AIDS. However, conservative forces say that the money should not be sent to any international clinics that "provide or promote" abortion. Senator Bill Frist and Rep. Henry Hyde are actually leading the fight not to have this "Mexico City" policy language in the bill. Recall that Reagan announced the "global gag rule" at a population conference in Mexico City. It prohibits international family planning clinics from receiving US taxpayer dollars if they promote or perform abortions. Counseling abortion as an option to unplanned pregnancy is considered promotion. Clinton lifted this gag rule and George W. reinstated it.

KOPP FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE SECOND DEGREE

After a four-year national and international manhunt, it took Judge Michael L. D'Amico of Erie County Court less than 24 hours to decide that James C. Kopp had murdered buffalo physician Dr. Barnett A. Slepian. Kopp had opted for a juryless trial. He still may be brought up on federal and Canadian charges. He faces 15 years to life in prison.

Kopp may be responsible for the 1994-1998 shootings of four other doctors who performed abortions. This spate of non-fatal shootings stopped in upstate NY and Canada when Kopp was on the run.

Abortion providers do not breathe a sigh of relief now that Kopp is in jail, however. There are anti-abortion extremists to replace Kopp. They are in training now—practicing marksmanship and plotting terrorist attacks on clinics. They are willing to die for their cause.

The New York Times, 03-19-03 and Albany's Metroland, 4-10-03

MONEY CRUNCH IN ALBANY—FAMILY PLANNING FUNDS IN TROUBLE

We are going backwards in time—back to the 1995-96 level of funding for family planning clinics. Pataki's budget lopped \$2.1 million from these services.

But these are troubled times. Families do not have health insurance and are dependent on one of the 250 statewide low cost clinics to help plan their fertility. *Ed. note:* It's always intelligent to have more unwanted, unplanned babies in times like these.

JAMES LEON HOLMES—SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WOMEN GO ASTRAY

The former president of the Arkansas Right to Life is the nominee for a seat on the Federal District Court in Little Rock. In 1997 he and his wife wrote in the Arkansas Catholic, "the wife is to subordinate herself to her husband. . . the wife is to place herself under the authority of the man. . . it is not a coincidence that the feminist movement brought with it artificial contraception and abortion on demand, with recognition of homosexual liaisons soon to follow."

NYT, 4-20-03

STOCK OWNERS—BE POLITICAL IN YOUR VOTING

1. If you don't think that the Board of Directors is diverse enough, vote "NO" and write your reason on the ballot.
2. Support progressive proposals from shareholders and unions, especially in relation to corporate accountability and excessive management compensation.
3. Watch for right wing proposals to limit charitable contributions to Planned Parenthood and the like.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail Checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
PO Box 385 * Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

ProChoice Friend - Name and Address _____

Contributions \$50 \$25 \$20 \$10 Other

Please note that contributions are not tax deductible.

MORE MUZZLING

Erica Goode writes in the 4-18-03 NYT that . . . scientists who study AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases say they have been warned by federal health officials that their research may come under unusual scrutiny by the Department of Health and Human Services or by members of Congress, because the topics are politically controversial.

The scientists, who spoke on condition they not be identified, say they have been advised they can avoid unfavorable attention by keeping certain "key words" out of their applications for grants from the National Institutes of Health or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Those words include "sex workers," "men who sleep with men," "anal sex" and "needle exchange." the scientists said.

FOLLOW-UP: GOV'T AGENCY WEBSITES AND ACCURATE INFORMATION

An article in our January '03 issue of the CHOICE NEWS-LETTER, entitled "Critics Say Government Deleted Web Information To Push Abstinence," noted relevant action by Rep. Christopher Smith (R-NJ), co-chair of the House Pro-Life Caucus. He had protested to HHS Secretary Thompson that the research posted on the web site of the National Cancer Institute found no link between abortion and breast cancer he stated that the research was "scientifically inaccurate and misleading to the public." The posting was removed from the agency's web site in June.

A new report, however, by a scientific panel appointed by the director of the NCI concluded that "THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT HAVING AN ABORTION INCREASES THE RISK OF BREAST CANCER later in life." The panel's conclusion "was based on four new studies and a review of earlier ones that were all reported at a CSI workshop in late February." This report, unanimously accepted, was then posted on the agency's web site without calling attention to the previous dispute.

The New York Times, 03-07-03

COMPLACENCY—THE GREATEST CRISIS OF OUR TIMES

THANKS TO

Thank-you-letter-writers who have been kept very busy writing to all the contributors.

\$\$ Contributors

Mail Party Workers

Editors

CALENDAR

May 20 — Cortland and Homer School Board Elections

September — Next Choice Newsletter

November — Election Issue Newsletter

January — Annual Fund Raising Issue of Choice

January 22, 2004 — 31st Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

LECTIONS COMING UP

**YOUR HOMEWORK:
ASK JUST ONE PERSON IF THEY ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE**

Choice

ZOGBY POLLS

What are the results when two opposing organizations commission the same polling agency to research the same issue? The Coalition for Adolescent Sexual Health c/o Focus on the Family and NYS's Family Planning Advocates both hired Zogby International to do just that. Both wanted to know if parents favored comprehensive or abstinence-only school based sexuality education. The members of the Coalition are: Christian Coalition of America, Concerned Women for America, Eagle Forum, Family Research Council, Focus on the Family, National Abstinence Clearinghouse, and the Traditional Values Coalition whereas NYS's FPA Education Fund is financed by foundations, such as Ford, Dyson and MS.

Summary of what the Coalition said.

Zogby created polling questions using words verbatim from the Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education that were developed by SIECUS and Planned Parenthood in collaboration with the Center for Disease Control (CDC). These guidelines are understood to represent the definitions of abstinence-plus or abstinence-first sex education. Other questions were taken directly from the National Guidelines for Sexuality and Character Education, developed by the ultra conservative, Texas-based Medical Institute for Sexual Health. (A group that maintains that condoms don't work.) These guidelines are widely accepted as the definitions of abstinence-until-marriage education.

Summary from the Coalition Poll Results:

"Just as the Coalition suspected, parents overwhelmingly rejected comprehensive sex education when they understand what this education teaches their children. By a 2.4 to 1 margin, parents disapprove or strongly disapprove comprehensive or abstinence-first sex education. By 5.4 to 1 margin, parents disapprove of the information contained in "safer-sex" curricula that have been promoted by the CDC. By a 4.5 to 1 margin, parents approve or strongly approve abstinence-centered sex education." Read more at: www.whatparentsthink.com

There appears to be a different interpretation of the results as presented in a letter from John Zogby, President and CEO of Zogby International to the Coalition:

"...congratulations for suggesting fair and honest questions, and for releasing all the data from the survey without trying to hide anything, which some groups attempt to do.

"While it is true that the findings show a majority supporting sex ed, the results seem clear that some things are out of bounds ...and point to a need to bring parents into the conversation, course planning, and family discussion.

"In fact, our official report to the Coalition stated:

Support for teaching abstinence is very strong. On the other hand, there was indication that some parents felt that teaching abstinence would not be enough. There was majority support (though not as strong as for abstinence) for teaching how contraceptives (especially condoms) are used. However, when teaching condom use was put into more graphic terms, support plummeted....

"As you know, others will interpret the results differently. That's how things are done in a democracy...."

Summary of the FPA poll results

The results of the January 2003 Zogby poll done for Family Planning Advocates (FPA): In NYS, 77% of voters (n=834) believe that age appropriate, medically accurate sex education should be taught in public schools. FPA said, "popular support for sex education crosses geographic lines, the poll found, with 83% of suburban voters favoring sex education in public schools. Some 76% of upstate voters and 74% of New York City voters agreed." www.fpaofnys.org

Why the contradictions?

Sex education can make parents feel uncomfortable. Americans have an "ostrich head in the sand" approach to sex education in the schools. Americans retain their puritanical roots despite the reality of teen pregnancy and the increasing rates of AIDS and STDs among teens. Just saying "No" is a lot easier for parents than finding the right words to explain the details of sex.

September 2003
Volume 12
Number 3

The Coalition survey asked Zogby to use exact wording from the various comprehensive guides. Parents were initially asked if they supported comprehensive, medically accurate, age appropriate sex ed in the schools. They responded in the affirmative according to the letter Zogby sent to the Coalition. Then the Coalition drew questions from the most graphic CDC sexual education materials, intended for high-risk populations and represented them as comprehensive sex education. At the end of the survey the question was repeated --do parents now support comprehensive sex education and here is where those opposing figures of 2.4 to 1 come from.

The question is -- would you teach sex education to inner city gang members at high risk for AIDS in the same manner as rural kids from Cortland, NY? When materials are taken out of context, it is confusing and dishonest. Parents overwhelmingly support comprehensive sex ed with instructions about condom use. Yet when only provocative questions are used in polls, we apparently get different answers.

Comprehensive Sex Ed vs. Abstinence Only Curricula in NYS

In NYS 67% of all school districts have initiated sex education policies. Only 14% of these have comprehensive sex ed programs which include abstinence. 51% have policies that stress abstinence but include education about other means of prevention. And 35% promote abstinence as the only way to prevent pregnancy and disease. Often the tons of funding from the federal government for abstinence only education dictate this decision.

33% of NYS schools have no sex ed policy and we believe all the schools in Cortland County are included in this percentage. The Cortland City schools use comprehensive sex ed curricula that have been scientifically proven effective. The ZAP 8th grade survey in several county schools, including Cortland, reports a decrease in sexual activity from 25% in 1996 to 13% in 2002.

ANOTHER POLL

Research from the Kaiser Family Foundation says that 90% of parents in the U.S. want their children to learn about reproduction, contraception and how to deal with pressure to have sex.

KOPP SENTENCED 25 YEARS TO LIFE

James C. Kopp was given the maximum sentence for the murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian of Amherst at his home in October 1998.

The sentence came following a four-year international man-hunt and a one-day non-jury trial, in which Kopp claimed he had not intended to kill Dr. Slepian, but simply to maim him to prevent his performing abortions.

In a "rambling 90-minute speech" the 48 year-old Kopp "touched on subjects including the supposed use of infants' blood in satanic rituals and Biblical passages that he said justified his actions."

Kopp's attorney asserted that Catholic teaching justified "the use of deadly force to protect unborn children," But the prosecution noted that "It's flat-out fraud. The priest who supervised his conversion to Catholicism made it clear to him right from the beginning that that was not acceptable."

The defense said that an appeal was planned.

The New York Times, 05-09-03

MORNING -AFTER PILL USE RISES

Despite past confusion with the so-called "abortion pill" (RU-486), the emergency contraception pill called "the morning after pill" has recorded significant sales increases in the past year. Four states now allow pharmacists to dispense it directly and in at least 14 other states law makers are seeking similar legislation. The pill manufacturers for one of the two companies that sells the pills has applied to the FDA for permission to sell them over the counter.

One manufacturer, Women's Capital, is discussing purchase of the drug, once over the counter sale is approved, with several large pharmaceuticals. Certainly advertising and increased distribution would follow such a move.

Although researchers say they still do not know "how the pill works, it either delays or prevents ovulation and could prevent pregnancy, new research shows, even if taken five days after sex." Its use is for what advocates say "they hope are rare instances of unprotected sex, or when, say, a condom breaks."

On the other hand, RU-486 triggers an abortion up to 12 weeks after conception. The emergency contraception pill, however, prevents conception. This difference between the two drugs, abortion rights advocates say, makes it easier to talk with some abortion opponents about emergency contraception than RU-486. It is reported that "many people who oppose abortions support birth control as a way to prevent them."

The FDA anticipates that a decision about over the counter sales of emergency contraception pills will be made within ten months. "While the pill has been most popular among women ages 19-29, studies showed that it was not widely used by teenagers. The Alan Guttmacher Institute estimated that the pill prevented 51,000 abortions in 2000.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, 08-19-03

ANTI-ABORTION FUGITIVE TERRORIST CAPTURED

Eric Rudolph, the "wily survivalist" charged with the 1996 Olympic bombing and attacks on abortion clinics, was captured in Murphy, NC, following a five-year exhaustive man-hunt.

While Rudolph claimed to have survived solely on his woodsman skills, federal agents strongly suspect that sympathetic local residents in this remote hamlet provided support.

Following the Olympic bombing were attacks at an Atlanta women's clinic; a bombing at a night club for gays; six months later another, at Atlanta area Northside Family Planning Services; then 13 months later, two were detonated, the second one "apparently intended for rescue workers."

This fourth bombing, at a Birmingham, Ala. clinic had a witness who spotted a man leaving the scene and driving a North Carolina tagged pick-up truck. Putting together clues from letters using "language associated with 'Christian Identity,'" a white supremacist group, agents suspected that Rudolph may have worked from their compound which is located near Murphy where he grew up.

The capture of the suspect brought tears of relief to maimed victims, some of whom "carry bits of shrapnel deep within their flesh." A daughter whose mother was killed in the 1996 bombing said that she "couldn't stop picturing him out there on the run...[thinking] he had won, that we had lost." And though one victim's loss of an eye as well as other devastating injuries she'll live

with for the rest of her life, her husband observed that “we do have the satisfaction of knowing he won’t hurt anyone else. And that’s what we’ve been after all this time.”

(ed. Note. One suspects he expresses the thoughts of the other 110 people he maimed, as well as those of the family of the police officer who died in the attacks.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, 06-01-03

CANDIDATES URGED TO REFUSE TO COMPLETE ELECTION SURVEYS

Both major parties have cautioned candidates to not answer issues surveys, like the ones that the Cortland Women’s Coalition does every other year. The same is reported by Project Vote Smart, a national candidate poll that is very telling of candidates’ stands on the environment, choice, campaign finances, etc. Ratings from 100 competing interest groups who evaluate your representatives are also listed in the Vote Smart Guide.

REMEMBER

“I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education.” John Adams, 2nd President

ACT—AMERICANS COMING TOGETHER

From the Washington Post (8-8-03), ACT, a new group to mobilize voters to defeat George Bush in 2004 has formed with the support of women’s, environmental, and labor groups. George Soros has contributed \$10M of the \$75M to be raised. He is quoted as saying, “President Bush is leading us in the wrong direction.”

This new group will be closely watched by the Republicans. Campaign Finance laws say that this campaign can have no coordination with the Democratic Party.

THE VATICAN AND THE PRESIDENT

“Worried about the spread of laws that recognize same-sex couples, the Vatican today urged Roman Catholic lawmakers and others to fight back, calling support for such legislation ‘gravely immoral.’ That unwavering appeal came in a strongly worded, 12-page document that was approved by Pope John Paul II and devoted to homosexuality, gay marriage and adoption by gays and lesbians, issues that have stirred fervent debate recently in North America and Europe....”

“Vatican officials seem to think that they still have the same kind of credibility they once had, and they don’t,” said the Rev. Andrew Greeley, a prominent Catholic sociologist in the United States.

“A Gallup Poll in May showed that Americans were evenly split on the question of whether gay couples should be allowed to enter into legally recognized unions, with 49 percent of respondents in favor and 49 percent against. A subsequent poll in July, after the United States Supreme Court struck down anti-sodomy laws in Texas, showed a shift in opinion, with 57 percent opposing such

unions and 40 percent favoring them. But two Canadian provinces recently legalized same-sex marriages, and so has the Netherlands. Other European governments have formally recognized same-sex unions or are moving in that direction, an example of a widening chasm between Catholic teaching and European law that the pope has frequently decried.”

NYT 7/31/03

George Bush, addressing a press conference question on same sex unions, began his remarks with “We are all sinners....” Need we say more?

POLITICS AND SCIENCE

Across the board, the Bush administration has politicized policy analysis. Government agencies doing research on stem cells, global warming, and weapons of mass destruction are under intense pressure to say what the White House wants to hear. And the long-term consequences are likely to be dire.

VIRGINITY PLEDGES

Spirit willing, flesh weak. So reports an anonymous college survey of those who took the pledge to stay chaste until marriage. Sixty-one percent (61%) of those surveyed broke the pledge according to Dr. Angela Lipsitz of northern Kentucky University. Of the 16% of students (N = 527) who reported taking the vow of celibacy till marriage, 6 of 10 said that their desires were just too hard to resist. However, sexual activity was delayed by one year among pledge takers and that was good. But young people who broke their pledge were less likely than non-pledgers to use condoms during their first intercourse. Perhaps core values rather than the pledge kept the pledgers from having sex earlier. The researcher questions the value of the pledge.

And a bigger problem – 55% of those who kept their pledges did engage in oral sex. Hello-o-o.

www.reutershealth.com/archive/2003/06/23eline/links

RAPE AND EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION (EC) NEW NYS LAW

Every year in the U.S., 25,000 rape victims become pregnant. EC could prevent 22,000 of these. On June 20, 2003 the NYS legislature passed a bill that said that all hospitals in the state must inform women of, and have on site access to EC in the ER. There was 100% support in the Senate and 89% in the Assembly for the passage of this bill.

POPULATION NOTES

YEMEN. The average woman in Yemen can be expected to have 7 children during her lifetime. If birth rates stay the same for the next three generations, the typical Yemeni woman will have 7 children, 49 grandchildren, 343 great-grandchildren and 2,500 great-great grandchildren.

EUROPE. The average family size in many parts of Europe, however, is barely more than one child. A European woman will have 1 child, 1 grandchild, 1-2 great grandchildren and 2-3 great-great grandchildren.

RELIGIOUS CONSULTATION ON POPULATION, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND ETHICS

PRENATAL TESTING AND ABORTION DECISIONS

An Atlantic Monthly magazine article pointed out how current prenatal testing "has complicated the moral calculus of abortion worldwide." Women generally cite two reasons for choosing to terminate a pregnancy: lack of a partner or inadequate financial resources. Thanks to prenatal testing, however, the condition of the fetus, alone, may become a more widespread reason, especially where advanced health care is available.

A few studies in western nations suggest that "prenatal testing and resulting abortions have caused a decline in the number of infants born with Down syndrome." A survey of patients in these countries and geneticists in thirty-six countries were asked if they would choose to abort fetuses with conditions ranging from cystic fibrosis to a predisposition toward alcoholism. The response showed that thirty-six to 78 percent would abort a fetus with Down syndrome.

While identifying genetic conditions is the chief use today for prenatal testing, future testing for such traits as intelligence and attractiveness is a possibility; and although sex selection was supported by only seven percent of the geneticists, the number increased when specific scenarios were presented. (See charts)

In general, 62 percent of the geneticists said they wanted "to prevent a trend toward prenatal choices for characteristics unrelated to health." It was noted that while advances in medical technology contribute "to doctors' ability to identify genetic traits and disorders earlier, they also make such disorders easier to treat or prevent."

Abortion Decisions Around the World

U.S.A.

U.S. women at risk for genetic conditions such as cystic fibrosis and Down syndrome who are not offered prenatal testing and then give birth to children with such conditions can be held liable.

Nepal

In Nepal, where abortion is regarded as homicide, twenty percent of the women now in prison were incarcerated for having abortions performed. Those who can afford to travel, go to India where the procedures are performed.

India

Only three of 8000 abortions performed in a Bombay clinic were not female fetuses, according to a 1996 survey. Although "sex selection became illegal in both China and India in the mid-1990s, anecdotal reports indicate that the practice remains widespread."

Africa

There are about 680 deaths for every 100,000 abortions, more than double the average of the developing world. In developed countries the rate is 0.2 to 1.2 deaths per 100,000 abortions.

Percentage of respondents who would abort in the first trimester for certain conditions.

Condition	U.S Patients*	French Patients*	German Patients	Total Geneticists
Cystic Fibrosis	52	91	64	68
Dwarfism	24	51	28	62
Down Syndrome	36	78	69	79
Sickle-cell Anemia	72	94	66	56
Huntington's Disease	32	60	33	64
Heart Attack in Middle Age	9	32	11	48
Predisposition to Alcohol	4	24	5	17
Severe Untreatable Obesity	8	40	9	29
Not Desired Sex	1	0	0	5

*Percentage based on those who thought abortion should be legal for purposes other than saving a mother's life, rape or incest. Sample sizes: 348 U.S. patients, 198 French patients, 593 German patients, 2906 Geneticists

Geneticists who would test prenatally or provide a referral for a couple with four girls who would abort another girl

Location	Would Refer%	Would Test%
Germany	7	13
China	3	24
India	0	32
Brazil	11	34
U.S.	38	34
Israel	14	68
Russia	5	90

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY, 04-03, pp.38-39

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail Checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
PO Box 385 * Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

ProChoice Friend - Name and Address _____

Contributions \$50 \$25 \$20 \$10 Other

Please note that contributions are not tax deductible.

THANKS TO

Thank-you-letter-writers who have been kept very busy writing to all the contributors.

\$\$ Contributors

Mail Party Workers

Editors

Post card mailer

Facility procurer

CALENDAR

November -- Election Issue Newsletter

January -- Annual Fund Raising Issue of Choice

January 22, 2004 -- 31st Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

VOTE AND THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Polls Open 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM on Tuesday November 4th

Choice

DON'T VOTE FOR RIGHT TO LIFE CANDIDATES

When you vote, check out the cross endorsements. There are still some folks who seek out and accept the local Right to Life Party Endorsement.

Here are the reasons why abortion rights are important in local elections. Candidates for higher offices often start out in local races. The right to an abortion can be an issue in the county jails. Even though NYS does not have a parental consent law, the local courts and the Probation Office can be involved with abortion decisions. Medicaid funding for abortions is available through the Department of Social Services. County legislators oversee these county departments.

The very active pro-choice folks of Westchester County convinced their local, state, and federal representatives that choice is a winning issue. They could mobilize a huge list of pro-choice voters who showed them that this was true. After long conversations with this group, State Senator Nick Spano changed his entrenched anti-choice stance and became the sponsor of some very important women's reproductive health bills.

LATEST BUSH JUDICIAL NOMINEE CALLS *ROE* "ABOMINABLE"

One of President Bush's most out-of-touch anti-choice judicial nominees yet, Bill Pryor, nominated to a lifelong federal judgeship which encompasses Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi, has publicly stated that "abortion is murder" and "*Roe v. Wade* is an abominable decision." A recent e-mail from NARAL Pro Choice America urges us to urge the Senate to reject this nomination resoundingly to protect our right to privacy and keep choice between women and their doctors!

November 2003 ✓FALLEN HERO

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Number 4

In observance of the 30th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, a New York Times editorial cited George Michaels as a "largely forgotten local hero." Some will remember the Democratic Assemblyman from

Auburn who, in 1970, predicted his own subsequent defeat when he switched his vote to cast the deciding one, repealing the state's criminal sanctions against abortion. Later approved by the Republican State Senate and signed by Governor Nelson Rockefeller, the bill was a "stunning advance for women's rights." And "helped to set the stage for the Supreme Court's landmark decision three years later making abortion legal nationwide."

Concluding the editorial, the Times observed that this is a reminder: "with abortion rights under attack from a hostile White House and Congress, the nation could use many more like George Michaels."

The New York Times, 01-22-03

LICENSE PLATES AGAINST CHOICE

Seven states: Alabama, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi, and South Carolina now issue "Choose Life" license plates. Car owners usually pay \$20 over the required registration fee for this privilege. The funds thus acquired are distributed to anti-choice organizations and those counseling adoption; and any organization associated with abortion services is prohibited from receiving such money. Florida anti-choice groups have benefited to the tune of more than one million dollars, as of November 2002, from the sale of these plates.

The Center for Reproductive Rights, among others, has charged in lawsuits that "Choose Life" plates represent unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination because the government is favoring the anti-choice view over that of pro-choice. Other choice advocates argue that such plates violate the First Amendment's provision for separating church and state- "this because many such states allow religious organizations, often Catholic charities," to decide how to distribute proceeds from the sales of plates.

The American Scene, Summer, 2003.

SOMEONE TO TURN TO

What happens when teens need information about reproductive health care? The federal government preaches "abstinence only." The Internet is full of misinformation. So the Planned Parenthood Federation of America created a site just for teens: "Teenwire.com" In June it received the prestigious "Webby" award for best health web site.

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

✓ THE BUSH PLAN FOR MEDICAID AND WOMEN

President Bush has proposed a radical change in how Medicaid is funded, a change that will severely and adversely affect low-income women's health care. The administration proposes giving two options to states: a state may either continue its Medicaid program as is, without any additional federal funding; or it may begin to operate its state's Medicaid program under a block grant based on current spending levels with some modest additional federal funding. Such increases must be repaid to the federal government and do not take into account population growth, health care inflation, or the state of the economy.

Since under the proposal states receive limited funding, they will need to be much more careful about controlling costs as to not exceed grant amounts. Under Bush's plan the states would have significantly increased ability to cut services, "impose cost sharing and cap enrollment for over one-third of all Medicaid beneficiaries."

Such a change would give states the power "to impose co-payments on family planning services and pregnancy-related care. States would also have the opportunity to remove family planning from the benefit package completely for millions of beneficiaries."

Citizen advocates must recognize the threat to women's health this proposal contains and notify representatives, local, state, and federal, of the significance of the Bush plan which is being touted as offering "upfront investment" and "increased flexibility."

The availability of family planning services helps low-income women prevents unintended pregnancies, thereby reducing Medicaid costs for maternity, post-partum and newborn care. Nationally, every dollar spent on family planning services has been shown to save three dollars in Medicaid costs. Almost half of all states have implemented or have programs pending that expand family planning services to women who cannot otherwise access Medicaid coverage.

Newsletter of Institute for Reproductive Health Access, Spring, 2003

✓ NEW DECEPTIVE BILL TO BAN ABORTION

It appears that President Bush will soon sign a new bill banning the use of the deceptively termed "partial-birth" procedure in abortions. "This measure, which has been constantly misrepresented as limited to late-term abortions, would in fact ban common abortion procedures used after the first trimester of pregnancy but well before fetal viability." The bill represents a clear violation of *Roe v. Wade*, and a similar Nebraska law struck down by the Supreme Court just three years ago.

Shortly before the bill was passed by the Senate, Senator Barbara Boxer tried valiantly "to block the measure by insisting on a provision, not in the House version, affirming support for *Roe v. Wade*." While the measure passed by a 93-to-0 vote, abortion opponents cynically voted in favor of it in order to move the bill to conference where they knew the *Roe* language "would be stripped away."

But, since it is obvious that "it is impossible to support both the bill and *Roe* ... the measure would, in effect, overturn *Roe* by criminalizing many midterm abortions and by omitting any exception to protect the health of the woman."

The editorial concludes that the backers of the bill, including President Bush show by their actions "a troubling disrespect not just for the rights of women, but also for the truth, and the rule of the law."

The New York Times, 09-18-03

✓ THE CHANGE IN GENERATIONAL VIEWS OF ABORTION

In a section of the *Sunday New York Times* called "Sunday Styles" the oddly placed article featuring photos of a Minnesota woman and her sixteen-year-old daughter is titled "Surprise, Mom: I'm Against Abortion." Introducing the topic, the writer cites the contrasting views of abortion represented here by a high school sophomore and her 47-year-old mother, a former nurse. While her daughter Afton adamantly asserts that she regards "abortion as murder" and believes that "it should not be performed under any circumstances, including rape," her mother maintains that, "it should be a woman's choice." She adds, "Nowadays kids don't grow up knowing or being aware of what was going on when abortion was illegal." While she would not have personally made such a choice, she says, "for the future of women, I want to see the right to an abortion maintained."

Such contrasting views illustrate a trend seen in some polls: "teenagers and college-age Americans are more conservative than their counterparts a generation ago." Down from the early 1990's, data from a study of 282,549 freshmen regarding support for the legality of abortion showed 67 percent in agreement a decade ago and 54 percent last fall. A NYT/CBS poll, in January, of people 18-19 "found that in 1993, 48 percent agreed that it should remain available, while a decade later the number had dropped to 39 percent."

A number of reasons has been suggested why today's young people favor stricter abortion laws than the previous generation: "teen-age pregnancy has declined, reducing the demand for abortion; single parenthood is more widely accepted; and the commonly cited is the way that the opponents of choice have "reshaped the national debate, shifting the emphasis from a woman's right to the rights of the fetus."

Further, because teen-age pregnancy rates are down, the need to consider the option is less likely. The article cites studies that show "fewer high school students engage in sexual intercourse, and that contraceptive use is up." Some parents point to some students' anti-abortion views as "a result of programs that stress abstinence as the only way to prevent pregnancy and disease, and that, in the process sometimes demonize abortion."

One parent who gave her seventh-grade son permission to attend a sex education classes found in his notes that abortion "in killing a baby, tears its arms and legs off." His mother discovered that the "abstinence curriculum had been created by "First Resort," a Christian and pregnancy counseling group. After complaining to the school district, modifications were made in the program.

Concluding the article, the writer cites experts who predict that the trend towards these conservative views continues and that the "balance could tip somewhat in America's long-running abortion war." She adds that there is doubt, however, "whether the shift will

be substantial enough to change the centrist position of a majority of Americans of all ages: that abortion should be legal, with restrictions."

The New York Times, 03-30-03

THE DE-SPERMINATOR OR JUST SHOOT ME

An article by Audrey Schulman in *Grist Magazine* (8-19-03) details the work of Sujoy Guha, professor of biomedical engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, who has created a male contraceptive known as RISUG. "It works with an injection into the vas, the vessel that serves as the exit ramp for sperm. The injection coats the vas with a clear polymer gel that has a negative and positive electric charge. Sperm cells also have a charge, so the differential charge from the gel ruptures the cell membrane as it passes through the vas, stopping the sperm ... before they can even start their journey to the egg. RISUG doesn't affect the surrounding tissues because they have no charge.

Compared to the other male contraceptive choices currently available – abstinence, withdrawal, condoms and vasectomies – RISUG is a whole new ballgame."

This method is non-surgical, has minor side effects, lasts up to 10 years, is reversible with another injection, and is virtually 100% effective. "If RISUG's current stage of clinical testing goes well, it will be on the market in India by next year. Within a few more years, if all proceeds as planned, the injection to reverse it will also be on the market."

"But would men in India – or anywhere else – use it? Every U.S. male authority I talked to in the field, including experts at the World Health Organization and the U.S. Agency for International Development, pooh-poohed the idea. 'Men don't like doctors to have anything to do with their testicles,' summarized Don Waller, a contraceptives expert and professor of pharmacology and toxicology at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Maybe not – but one in six married men in the U.S. have had vasectomies, which definitely require medical personnel poking at the gonads."

"Realize that overseas there just aren't decent options," said Elaine Lissner, director of the Male Contraception Information Project. "By the time condoms arrive there, they're cracked by the heat. Poverty and lack of medical follow-up are a problem. You can't use a diaphragm if you don't have clean running water. You can't use an IUD if no medical treatment exists if something goes wrong. You can't use the Pill if it's too expensive."

"In the developing world, RISUG's price tag could be brought down to about \$22, the price at which Guha and Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (the largest Indian drug company) are planning to market it in India.... Studies have shown that when couples in the developing world start having fewer children, both the health and literacy of the children improve, and mothers are more likely to survive long enough to raise their kids.... The lack of interest in RISUG by the U.S. helps delay its use around the world."

(Ed. Note) Recall that the contraceptive shot, Depo or the "Shot" was developed by a Syracuse Ob-Gyn and used in other countries before use in the U.S. For years there was resistance to its use here; it is now a very effective and popular method of birth control, often used by teens.

SCARLET LETTER

"Gov. Jeb Bush (finally) signed a bill today repealing the state's 'Scarlet Letter' law that required single women planning to put their infants up for adoption to first publish their sexual histories in a newspaper if they did not know the identity of the father. The 2001 bill (had) passed by large margins in both the Florida House and Senate and became law when Mr. Bush declined to veto it, with the understanding that the legislature would revise the publication provision."

NYT 5-31-03

✓ REMEMBER RANDY TERRY

In the 1980s and early 1990s, he was jailed for blocking clinics and having a human fetus delivered to Bill Clinton. The founder of Operation Rescue, Randy Terry, a former used car salesman from the Binghamton NY area, is staging a comeback as an anti-gay marriage activist. He called on Congress to impeach the six Supreme Court justices who threw out the Texas sodomy law.

The Rev. Flip Benham, current director of Operation Rescue says, "What does he have to say about marriage, the one who divorced his own wife for a trophy wife? Randall Terry is an unrepentant sinner."

Terry countered with, "The Bible doesn't condemn divorce, but it does condemn homosexuality."

8-17-03 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

OFFENSIVE PRAYER OFFENSIVE

"The preacher, a Yale Law School graduate, bowed his head before the television cameras and prayed, 'we ask for miracles in regard to the Supreme Court....'" This 21-day "prayer offensive" of the Rev. Pat Robertson, TV evangelist and politician asked heaven to "strike the Supreme Court with divinely enforced retirements" and purge the court of its "liberals."

This was in response to the court striking down Texas's criminalization of consensual homosexual behavior. Robertson "had the garishly bad taste to dwell on the ages and infirmities of some of his least favorite jurists. This sort of pulpit tomfoolery would hardly seem worth any attention if Mr. Robertson were a less politically significant figure. But he is the founder of the Christian Coalition, which is still taken seriously, and he had a credible following as a presidential candidate."

NYT Editorial 8-01-03

This ruling, Robertson said, "has opened the door to homosexual marriage, bigamy, legalized prostitution and even incest."

NYT 7-16-03

ROBERTSON AND CHRISTIAN FUNDEMENTALISM

On "Sixty Minutes," Pat Robertson stated that the evangelical Christians would make sure that no American president would ever do anything to harm Israel. These "Christian Zionists" are convinced by a literal reading of the Bible that Christ will reappear only once, when the Jews have repossessed the Holy Land. Their other conviction, that Jews will either die in an apocalypse or be converted to Christianity, is not so reassuring.

DO THE MATH

Patrick Guerriero, executive director of the Log Cabin Republicans said that one million gays voted for G.W. Bush in 2000. While this is not a "vast voter block, other Republicans are also doing the arithmetic, among them Senator Gordon H. Smith of Oregon. Like President Bush, Senator Smith opposes gay marriage and requiring benefits for domestic partners. But he is promoting legislation to permit hate crime prosecutors to consider the victim's sexual orientation, a stance that won him the endorsement of the Human Rights Campaign in his last Senate race. 'I gained more votes than I lost,' says Mr. Smith as he considers threats from conservatives."

NYT 7-31-03

RICO AND THE SUPREME COURT

Twenty years ago the National Organization for Women and two abortion clinics brought a successful suit for damages against Operation Rescue. This was done under RICO, the federal anti-racketeering act.

By an 8-to-1 vote, the court recently overturned this decision saying that while the protesters' behavior might well have amounted to coercion, no extortion was proven as required in Rico decisions. Chief Justice Rehnquist wrote the opinion for the court in Scheidler v. National Organization for Women, No. 01-1118, while Justice Stevens dissented.

(Ed. Note) This was a tough decision when first handed down by the high court. It sent a chill through many political organizers. They feared that RICO would be used against almost any protest.

2-27-03 Cortland Standard

VOTE!

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail Checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
PO Box 385 * Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

ProChoice Friend - Name and Address _____

Contributions \$50 \$25 \$20 \$10 Other

Please note that contributions are not tax deductible.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS REMAIN A CONSTANT STRUGGLE

Abortion clinics have known terrorist attacks, anthrax scares and political adversity for decades. Here is a brief timetable of events since Roe V Wade:

1977 Hyde amendment—no Medicaid funded abortions for low-income women.

1980 Reagan elected as anti-choice president.

1983 Amendment proposed to overturn Roe.

1984 24 bombings and arsons of abortion clinics this year. 18 clinic directors get death threats.

1986 Antonin Scalia, opponent of Roe, appointed to Supreme Court.

1988 Operation Rescue begins blockades of clinics.

1989 Cortland Choice Newsletter begins in response to Webster Supreme Court decision in which a minority of justices affirmed Roe.

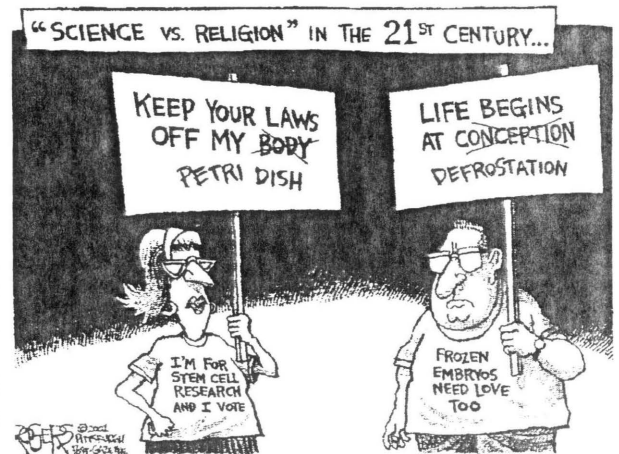
1991 Clarence Thomas appointed to Supreme Court.

1993 Dr. Gunn murdered.

1995 Anti-Choice Congress elected.

1998 Dr Slepian murdered.

2000 Anti-choice Bush "selected" as president. He tries to strip contraceptive coverage from federal employees, limits stem cell research, provides massive funding for abstinence-only education, names anti-condom crusader to AIDS Advisory Council, removes medically accurate information about condoms from CDC web site, proposes that Child Health Insurance Programs extend care to fetuses but not to their pregnant mothers, appoints anti-choice Ashcroft as Attorney General, anti-choice Tommy Thomson as secretary of DHHS, closes White house office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach, packs courts with anti-choice conservatives and reduces access to family planning services world wide.



THANKS TO:

*Our readers out there. You send money and kind words. We remain energized to continue researching and writing. This is one of the last few Pro-Choice newsletters in NYS. All others come from big cities or very rich counties.

*Our Workers – without you it would be no fun.

CALENDAR FOR OUR FIFTEENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

**January 2004 Choice Newsletter Annual fundraising edition

**January 22, 2004 The 31 st Anniversary of Roe v Wade

**APRIL 25, 2004 NARAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON DC to speak out for a woman's right to choose. Friends, supporters, and activists -- THIS WILL BE A BIG ONE! Join us on the bus.

**May 2004 Choice Newsletter

**RESERVE YOUR SEAT ON THE BUS
APRIL 25 FOR GIGANTIC MARCH ON
WASHINGTON FOR FREEDOM OF CHOICE!**

Sign up on line: www.pprsr.org/takeAction/marchMarchforChoice.cfm



Cortland, NY 13045

**BEST OF CHOICE! A 15 YEAR
EFFECTIVE FROM OUR NEWSLETTER**

JANUARY IS RENEWAL MONTH

**JANUARY 22 IS 31st ANNIVERSARY
OF ROE v. WADE**

RETROSPECTIVE — Some excerpts from previous newsletters show that things have not changed much in 15 years:

October 1989: The initial Choice newsletter was published in response to the ominous Webster decision of the Supreme Court in July 1989, although we had sporadically put forth infrequent mimeographed versions in the 1970s (Thanks, Sue). Webster upheld Missouri law stating the a person is human from the moment of conception, that public employees are forbidden to perform abortions, and that a 20 week viability test must be done before abortions are performed. This marked a major shift in giving states much greater regulatory authority. A profusion of state anti-abortion bills followed Webster.

Least they say that feminists have no sense of humor, this newsletter insert was intended for the anti-choice folks who picketed Dr. Jacobus' office at 6 Euclid Ave:

S.A.F.E.T.Y. Support A Fetus Economically for Twenty Years — I pledge \$5000 a year for 20 years to support any fetus unborn by my picketing presence here today.

And an early fund raiser —

PLEDGE A PICKET: *Guess the number of picketers in front of the Cortland Memorial Hospital on the Roe v. Wade anniversary date and pledge a certain amount for each one as reported in the Cortland Standard. The more people they had, the more money the local Choice movement generates. A Win-Win! (There were 70-80 in 1990; in 1989 there were 100-150.) Ed. note: Local March for Life scheduled for 1/17/04 at Cortland Memorial Hospital.*

Dec 1989: 1.1 million teens get pregnant every year in the U.S., (800,000 in 2002). Half of all pregnancies in the U.S. are mistimed or unintended (this has not changed!) George Bush Sr. uses anti-choice "litmus tests" for court appointees. MS. Magazine stops publishing. It is the victim of a boycott of their teen magazine, SASSY, by the Moral Majority, Women AGLOW, and Focus on the Family. SASSY supported MS.

Jan 1990: Profusion of state bills related to: minor's rights, parental permission, parental notification, judicial by-pass, restrictions on staff and facilities, scripted counseling and mandatory waits all threaten Roe V. Wade. Also Catholic bishop bans Pro-choice NY Assembly woman from communion. (Catholic) Governor Cuomo wonders if the bishop will bar politicians from communion if they support the death penalty. Ed note: Is there excommunication for child abusers or mass murderers? No, only for Pope killers or those who have an abortion.

Feb. 1990: In April 1989, 600,000 people attended a pro-choice march in Washington. A busload from Cortland was there. Then in November 1989, another 300,000 converged on Washington again. Cortland folks sold our bumper stickers: "I have a Uterus and I Vote." This slogan is credited to Westchester's Polly Rothstein who was countering the NRA bumper stickers; she said that there were more uterus owners than gun owners. With our sticker stuck to his body, Henry Steck was a particularly effective sales person. We sold about 300. Also NYS is 1 of only 9 states where both houses favor keeping choice legal.

RENEW

January 2004
Volume 13
Number 1

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

March 1990: Major community controversy erupts when teen pregnancy counseling guidelines from Cortland School District are leaked to Right-to-Life folks. A fortunate mistake in the Choice newsletter stating that the Board of Education meeting started at 7:00 instead of 7:30 PM enabled 100 Pro-choice folks to occupy all the seats and all of the parking places. Thirty Right-to-Lifers had to stand across the back of the room. In another stroke of brilliance, we asked that people stand to show support for the school guidelines. A sea of standees! A victory for teen privacy. Our thanks to FPA Shirley Gordon and Lauri Rockett for the legal assistance.

April 1990: This issue reported that the American Psychological Association passed a motion to educate state legislators on the psychological consequences of abortion. It said that freedom of choice promoted women's health and that there was no basis in fact that abortion caused widespread, severe, negative effects. Also Catholic bishops hire Hill and Knowlton, a PR and polling firm, to change Americans' minds on abortion. Knights of Columbus pay for this campaign.

June 1990: MS is back without advertising! Also Ohio legislator proposes that abortion parental notification go to the teen father's parents. Bill defeated because "What if he is the captain of the football team?"

July 1990: Readership at 250 Cortland households. The following entities were targeted or boycotted because they supported the right to choose: AT&T, the League of Women Voters, NAACP, MS, the Children's Defense Fund, People for the American Way, among others. Boycotters were religious right groups: the Christian Action Council, the American Life League, Public Policy Center, Americans for Freedom, and the Heritage, John Olin and Coors Foundations. Even our local YWCA was targeted because of their national Pro-Choice stance. However, we countered that by getting our readership to donate \$5000 pro-choice dollars to the YW.

August 1990: Between 1969 and 1973, 11,000 illegal abortions were performed by a woman's underground abortion services named Jane.

September 1990: The House of Representatives Operations Committee says that reports on health outcomes of abortions are censored and they call for minimizing the bias in biomedical research. (Nothing changes — In 2002, the DHHS website experiences censorship of sexually related information related to AIDS and condoms. They also posted inaccurate information linking abortion and breast cancer.)

November 1990: 320 Pro-choice families on mailing list now. Quote of the month — Louisiana senator, in opposing the incest exception in an anti-abortion bill, says "Inbreeding is how we get championship horses."

January 1991: Over 300 sign full-page pro-choice ad in Cortland Standard. New members and new money followed as did a 2 page anti-choice ad with 500 signatures. "Life, it's a beautiful choice" and the Statue of Liberty shedding a tear for aborted fetuses — these were the ads run by the bishops'

\$5 million dollar campaign done by Hill and Knowlton. (We now know that they should have been directing their dollars elsewhere.) Also reported: No abortions were allowed in the Cortland Memorial hospital in 1990 — these would have been Medicaid funded abortions. Poor women had to travel out of county for these services.

February 1991: Gulf war on TV kept anti-choice picketers at home on 1-22-91, they claimed. Only 65 showed up — pledge-a-picket earns only \$170. U.S. entry of RU-486 is denied despite wide use in European countries.

March 1991: 60% of Randy Terry's band of marauders (clinic blockaders) have no religious affiliation. Perhaps their alternative motivation is the fear of women choosing for themselves. World population is 5 billion. \$21. billion spent in U.S. in 1989 to assist families begun by teen mom. 60 pro-choice votes in the U.S. Senate! Becky Bell's parents came to the FPA conference to plead with NYS not to pass a parental notification bill. Their daughter died of an illegal abortion because "she loved her parents too much to hurt" them with news of her pregnancy.

April 1991: In banning reproductive technology, the Vatican essentially said, no sex without babies and no babies with sex. Syracuse Planned Parenthood was set aflame three times within one week by a 25-year-old woman who used her mail as kindling.

June 1991: A bad month for local choice concerns: two pro-parental notification citizens are elected to the school board. One school counselor, a member of the very anti-choice New Life Church, is reprimanded several times for keeping an open Bible on his desk. Eight parents object to Planned Parenthood and Jacobus Center speakers in the Groton School District.

August 1991: With the Supreme Court Rust v. Sullivan 5 to 4 decision, the Gag rule is back! Federally funded birth control clinics cannot provide information to patients about abortion, even if asked. Clinics vulnerable because this prevents them from giving fully informed consent to patients. Also Roe v. Wade supporter, Thurgood Marshall resigned from the Supreme Court in June. Republicans choose 2 RTLers to run for city council in November. Ralph Reed and religious right energized RTL as they pledge to take this country "precinct by precinct." Our Choice newsletter puts out, *The Religious Perspective on Choice* with 10 clergy signatures.

October 1991: NOW loses RICO suit against anti-abortion terrorists. Rank and file Catholics upset with the "misappropriation of church funds" to ad agency for anti-choice ads. Harris Poll: 92% think gag rule should go.

February 1992: Choice newsletter mailing to 500 families now. 200 RTLers form human cross with pictures of fetuses on the 4 corners of Main St. and Groton Ave. Last Summer, 3000 arrested in Kansas Operation Rescue. Thomas confirmed to Supreme Court. We now depend on *stare decisis* — the unwillingness of the Court to overrule past court precedent.

MORE CHOICE RETROSPECTIVE NEXT ISSUE

NEWS IN BRIEF

*Emergency Contraception or the Morning After Pill may be available over the counter if the White house ideology doesn't trump scientific research.

*"India increasingly favors tougher approach to birth control as country struggles to balance its democratic impulses with its demographic pressures." Some states mandate a two-child norm for members of village councils and civil servants as well; "some states have considered denying educational benefits to third child; states also turn to incentives—pay raises or access to land or housing—for government servants who choose sterilization after one or two children....mildly coercive social engineering in a democracy." N.Y.Times 11-07-03

*In 1996 India banned the use of ultrasound machines for sex determination. But the government only began to take broad action after the 2001 census figures appeared. They showed 927 girls for every 1,000 boys under age 6, a precipitous decline from 962 girls 20 years earlier. N.Y.Times 10-26-03

*A state Supreme Court decision dismissed a lawsuit by religious employers challenging the constitutionality of New York's Women's Health and Wellness Act. The suit, led by Catholic Charities of Albany, sought the ability to deny employees health insurance coverage for birth control on religious grounds. N.Y.Times 12-01-03

*Andrea Lafferty, executive director of the Traditional Values Coalition representing more than 43,000 churches, says "what makes us unique among all the conservative groups is that I believe we truly represent the body of Christ." This group compiled a list of nearly 200 scientific researchers who receive federal funding for studies on human sexuality including H.I.V. and AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and adolescent sexual behavior. The coalition and its government allies are using the list in attempts to discredit the researchers and challenge or revoke their federal grants. Editorial of the N.Y.Times 11-03-03

*On 11-05-03, a smirking George W. Bush, surrounded by smiling white men, signed into law the ban on late term abortions. They celebrated as they deprived us of a procedure that could save a woman's life.

*Federal court in NY issues sweeping restraining order blocking new federal ban on late-term abortions. Brought by the National Abortion Federation, the suit covers 350 clinics in 47 states. Judge Richard Conway Casey cites fact that plaintiffs would likely succeed on merits since Supreme Court has declared similar law unconstitutional. NYTimes 11-07-03

*A Florida appeals court denied the right to appoint a guardian for a fetus of a developmentally disabled rape victim despite Jeb Bush's intervention. The court would not define the fetus as a person and said that this would create a situation with the mother and fetus having competing rights. NYTimes 1-11-04

*According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the teenage birthrate (age 15-19) had declined 30% over 10 years to a historic low of 43 births/1,000. African-American teenagers showed the sharpest declines, down more than 40% since 1991. For 15-17 yr olds, the rate was half, to 40 births per 1,000 in 2002 from 83.6 per 1,000 in 1991. The abortion rate declined in tandem with the birthrate. Researchers say that teenagers are being more successful in avoiding pregnancy. It is estimated that in women 15 to 19, the abortion rate declined from 40 per 1,000 in 1990 to 24 in 1999. "Experts in the field agree that educational efforts have been crucial to reducing the numbers." NYTimes 12-23-04

*Opponents of the emergency contraceptive, known as Plan B, say they are concerned that among other things, widening access to the morning-after pill will encourage sexual promiscuity, particularly among young people. They blame the pill for starting a revolution in sexuality and morals. "But that is based on a misunderstanding of the history of America's sexual revolution and the pill's role in it. Before 1960, the story goes, the natural constraints of human biology held Americans to strict standards of sexual discipline; after 1960, and after the pill, Americans threw off the shackles (or, depending on one's political perspective, the civilizing influence) of sexual propriety." The fact is American sexual habits had been changing long before the pill in 1960. Surveys revealed that about half of all women who came of age in the 1920's admitted to engaging in premarital sex, a figure that held steady for women in later decades. A Ladies' Home Journal poll in 1938, found that 80% of women approved of using birth control. Women in the 19th century were obviously using some methods of birth control because the average number of children per family went from 7 to 4. 75% of young people in the 1920's attended high school, creating a new heterosocial peer culture.

In the early 20th century more young women also entered the work force, where they came into increased contact with men and enjoyed a limited amount of financial and social freedom that could translate into a loosening of sexual mores. This was particularly the case in the early 1940's, when millions of women mobilized for war production, and 16 million of their husbands and boyfriends enlisted in the armed services. The resulting demographic and social upheaval created an explosion of sexual freedom. Finally, the ever-rising influence of consumerism and advertising after 1900 chipped away at the Victorian-era culture of asceticism and self-denial, in effect legitimating the pursuit of pleasure. Nevertheless, women and men were steadily redefining the boundaries of romance and sex long before the pill appeared...

The history of America's encounter with the pill helps inform today's debate over Plan B. Oral contraception was a vital development in women's reproductive rights and health, but it didn't cause a revolution in morals and behavior any more than Plan B is likely to sexualize a nation of young people who are already sexually active. Surveys suggest that more than 75 percent of young people have sex before they turn 20, yet only about one-fifth of sexually active high school girls use the pill. "The pill, then, did not create America's sexual revolution as much as it accelerated it. And that revolution had been a long time in the making." " Op Ed of the NYTimes 12-27-03

WITH GOD ON HIS SIDE — Pat Robertson recently called for nuking the State Department.

Pat Robertson, head of the Christian Broadcasting Network and a former contender for Republican presidential nomination suggested the “nuclear incineration of the State Department “ in a recent broadcast on his program, the “700 Club.”

“If I could just get a nuclear device inside Foggy Bottom (the Washington, D.C., neighborhood where the State Department’s building is located). I think that’s the answer,” Robertson declared. These remarks sparked an angry response from the State Department, but no reaction from the media or Bush.

Robertson also is known for his demonizing of abortion and gay rights. He provides the religious and ideological justification for the anti-abortion fanatics. www.wsws.org

THE ‘PARTIAL BIRTH’ STRATEGY

The “partial birth” ban that recently became federal law has given a “wrong impression that the pro-choice movement does not regard abortion as a serious matter, and that women seeking to terminate a pregnancy require a condescending reminder from Congress to understand that the fetus they are carrying is a potential life.” This [N.Y. Times](#) editorial argues that the doctors who perform the procedures, the families that need the procedure and the pro-choice folks fighting in a difficult political environment to preserve choice fully understand the issue.

The anti-choice strategy was to present the gore of this particular late term abortion method and none of the facts. “It is hard to imagine a doctor performing such a procedure on an almost fully developed fetus except under the most drastic medical circumstances. And, although no definitive statistics exist, the evidence suggests no doctor does.”

More common, though still rare, are abortions performed during the second rather than the third trimester of pregnancy however this legislation makes no distinction between these. “That is one reason the current ‘partial birth’ law is being challenged in federal courts in three states, and it was one reason the Supreme Court overturned a Nebraska statute remarkably similar to the one just passed by Congress.”

Newsletter/MembershipForm

Mail Checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
PO Box 385 * Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

ProChoice Friend - Name and Address _____

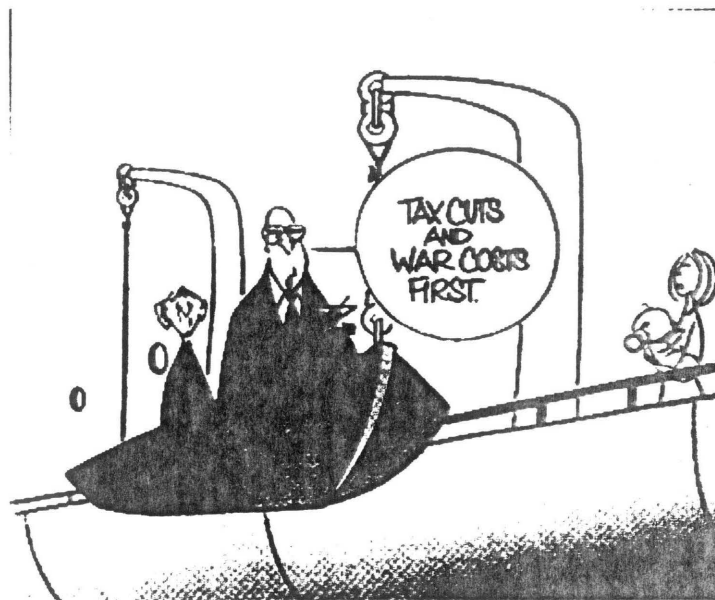
Contributions \$50 \$25 \$20 \$10 Other

Please note that contributions are not tax deductible.

The Nebraska law provided no exception to protect a woman’s health and this particularly concerned Sandra Day O’Connor. People don’t want to think of the details of this procedure but they would most likely make an exception if “a woman discovered that the fetus she was carrying was hopelessly deformed and that extracting it later or by another method could leave her unable to have children in the future.”

Our physician majority leader, Bill Frist or others discussed none of these crucial proponents in the Senate debate. They did not heed the invitation from the Supreme Court to add a women’s health exception. Why the editorial asks. Because “it would have diverted public attention from the details of how the abortions are performed, to the thought of women who might be put at risk.” A full debate on all the facts “would not have served the sponsors’ purpose of fuzzifying up the abortion issue by portraying pro-choice advocates as heartless extremists.”

[NYT](#) editorial (11-30-03)



THANKS to:

*Our Readers

*Our Workers – without you, it would be no fun.

CALENDAR

January 2004 Our annual fundraising month

January 22, 2004 The 31 St. Anniversary of Supreme Court decision Roe v Wade

APRIL 25, 2004 NARAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON D.C. to speak out for a woman’s right to choose. We have chartered a bus! Call NOW to reserve — 753-8510. Can’t go? Too bad! YOU WILL MISS A FABULOUS EXPERIENCE. BUT you can provide a scholarship for a student to go in your place.

May 2004 Choice Newsletter

September date to be determined Women’s Coalition Brunch with many of the state and federal candidates for office.

November 2004 The Election Edition of [Choice](#) with special insert that shows how the candidates compare on issues of importance to women.

SPECIAL BIG EDITION: MARCH FOR WOMEN'S LIVES

BIGGEST MARCH IN U.S. HISTORY WASHINGTON D.C.

APRIL 25, 2004
WE WERE THERE!

Choice

May 2004
Volume 13
Number 2

DIARY OF A MARCHER

The March was an exciting, empowering, energizing experience for the 1.15 million men, women, and children who were there. They came from 57 countries and from every state in the union. Three hundred colleges and universities sent bus contingents. The tone of the day was extraordinary — mutual support and unity in our belief in this cause. Below is the diary of one woman who marched with a group of others from Cortland, New York.

Saturday, April 24, '04

8:00AM

Some of us at breakfast at Denny's as we await the arrival of our bus from Syracuse. There's excitement in the air as experiences of earlier marches and clinic defenses are shared. Clippings of recent and supportive Cortland Standard editorials and wonderful Molly Ivins columns are brought out.

9:20 A.M.

We board the bus, greet the Syracuse marchers, and stow our gear.

9:40 A.M.

Bottles of water courtesy of the Southern Tier Women's Clinic are distributed.

Riders have begun sharing food — nuts, cookies fruit, etc.

10:00A.M.

We see a video, "Iron-Jawed Angels," the inspiring story of Alice Paul, the suffragette leader imprisoned and force-fed in her long fight for women's right to vote. (This writer is embarrassed to admit that she had not known of Alice Paul and vows to learn more about this remarkable woman).

12:00 noon.

Rest stop in Allentown, Pa. It's no Red Cross but it sure brings relief!

1:10 P.M.

We see another video, The Hours. Good, but not really inspirational (I know, I know, it wasn't meant to be).

3:00 P.M.

Rest Stop.

4:30 P.M.

We arrive at the Radisson Hotel, close to DuPont Circle, a great location with shops, boutiques, restaurants and apartment buildings. We stand outside the bus for a picture with us holding the Cortland Choice banner. Our quad suite is spacious and nicely

furnished — a real bargain for the march-goers and such luxury compared to the usual: boarding the "red eye" bus at midnight and arriving bleary eyed for a morning march.

4:45 P.M.

Wasting no time, we stroll up to the Circle where Planned Parenthood has a festival going on: white tents for vendors, vibrant colors everywhere — flowers, T-shirts, balloons, and music. We are immediately aware of the huge numbers of young people here.

7:00 P.M.

We decide, with the knowledgeable assistance of a group member's daughter who lives in D.C., to go to a relatively new Japanese restaurant nearby after seeing long lines at many others, and we sit at outdoor tables. The food is great — wonderful sushi, sukiyaki, plum wine, and more. Seated next to us is a couple who've come from California to march. Then we head for Larry's Ice Cream shop, a locals' favorite. We stroll back to the hotel relishing the shop windows and the gaiety and life around us. Marchers fill the streets.

10:50 P.M.

Bedtime.

April 25, THE BIG DAY

6:40A.M.

After showering and dressing we cross the street and take out our breakfast of fruit and bagels to eat in our room. We learn that the entire hotel has been reserved for marchers; we see the contingent of 350 from New Mexico and the lobby and elevators are crowded with good-natured and excited men and women. An electric air of anticipation is everywhere.

9:40 A.M.

We leave for the Metro which will take us to the staging area of the Mall where the march begins. Sidewalks, stairs, and station are filled with marchers, and signs appear everywhere — "If you cut off my reproductive rights, can I cut off yours?"

11:00 A.M.

We arrive at the Mall and ask for directions to locate the Syracuse-Rochester grid where we are to assemble. The weather is absolutely perfect—cool and sunny. Everywhere is a sea of color and sounds: huge TV screens have been set up, and as we walk to our location Hillary is speaking her encouragement and support of our cause. Other celebrities are heard: Whoopi Goldberg, Cybill Shepherd, Ted Turner, Ashley Judd. Never have any of us seen, or been a part of such a mass of people gathered together.

We learn later that the number of marchers has exceeded a record breaking 1.15 million!

Protesters, confined behind fences, kneel alongside some of the way bearing signs and photos of bloody fetuses (reminding some of us of our Buffalo Clinic Defense in 1992 and the same photos carried there by Operation Rescue). They pray and chant to a responding, "Pro-Life, that's a lie, you don't care if women die." And "4-6-8-10 why are all your leaders men?" (Some are arrested for lack of a parade permit). We march at last, slowly, alongside a nearly indescribable mass of old and young, from infants in arms (and in utero) to the elderly old, the disabled pushed in wheelchairs, family groups, ethnic groups, church groups, some women in head scarves, all amid thousands of bobbing signs of every size, color and description. We note that many signs are directed at Bush, although very strong warnings issued by March organizers had forbid us from mentioning specific political names because the sponsoring organizations were tax-exempt entities. Some of the signs and t-shirts noted below are courtesy of other marchers on the bus; excluded are signs with offensive language, although some are pretty funny.

"I asked God—She said 'Pro-Choice'"

"Menopausal Women Nostalgic For Choice"

"I'd Rather Regret Having An Abortion Than Regret Having a Child"

"If You Can't Trust Me To Make A Choice, How Can You Trust Me With A Child?"

"If Men Could Get Pregnant, Abortion Would Be a Sacrament"

"Keep Antis Out Of My Panties"

"First Term President—Second Term Abortion"

"Women Are Not State Operated Incubators"

"Keep Bush Out Of Mine"

"Real Sex Education Saves Lives"

"Physicians For Choice—Keep Abortion Safe And Legal"

"Keep Your Rosaries Off My Ovaries"

"Vote Thick And Dick Out Of Office"

"Derechos Reproductivos Son Derechos Humanos"

"Save The Sanger Spirit"

"It's Your Choice—Not Theirs"

"Tell George To Get A Womb Of His Own"

"A Closed Mind Is A Wonderful Thing To Lose"

"Pregnancy Shouldn't Be A Punishment"

"I Smile Because My Mother Had A Choice."

"Against Abortion? "Don't Have One."

"Stop Mad Cowboy Disease"

"US Out of Women's Wombs and Iraq"

"Terminate An Unwanted Presidency"

"Raging Grannies For Choice"

"Ashcroft, Get Your Big Nose Out Of My Medical Records"

"Not every ejaculation deserves a name."

"Not The Church, Not The State, Women Will Decide Their Fate"

1:00 P.M.

Some of us decide to sit down near one of the large screens and listen to speakers. We hear Susan Sarandon, Sen. Barbara Boxer, Patricia Ireland, Gloria Feldt.

3:10 P.M.

Many of the marchers are leaving the line now as they realize, as we do, that it will take a long time to get on the Metro, considering the number of people who will be using it. We leave now to meet the rest of our group at the front door of the Smithsonian Castle, possibly a mile or so from here.

3:45 P.M.

When everyone has joined up, there is a lot of picture taking before we find the very, very, long lines at the Metro Station.

4:45 P.M.

We are finally able to jam ourselves into a Metro car. There's no danger of falling down when the train stops or starts, as there is simply no room in the car to fall! But despite being sardines, everyone is joking about the crush, obviously in a celebratory mood that the March has been such a success.

5:10 P.M.

After what seems like almost another march, we finally locate our bus among what must be hundreds parked there. The lot at the RFK Stadium is immense, and one realizes that organizing this event has been a tremendous accomplishment. After boarding, we fall, gratefully, into our seats.

5:55 P.M.

To cheers, we leave for home. More water and Power Bars are handed out. A steady stream of snacks flows up and down among the passengers. Everyone is pretty tired, but exhilarated at having been a part of this historic, empowering event, determined to do more to put our cause forward, by all the means at our disposal.

6:50 P.M.

Rest stop at McDonald's

7:20 P.M.—12:40 A.M.

Many sleep, but others talk and watch videos: the first shown is "Pirates of the Caribbean" (!) Then we see "The Cider House Rules," relevant and moving.

April 26

2:00 A.M.

We arrive at Denny's in Cortland. Blearily wishing farewell to our Syracuse cohorts, we stagger out of the bus and into the pitch-black downpour of rain.

2:40 A.M.

Too charged up by the entire March experience to go to sleep right away, we realize how lucky we've been to be a part of this memorable event, one we'll share with family, friends, and especially, daughters, granddaughters, and even great-granddaughters. My thoughts keep returning to Whoopi's powerful opening remarks. We were heard at that March, and we'll continue to be heard. Choice is here to stay.

DIARY OF A FIRST TIME MARCHER

I was pleasantly surprised at how peaceful it was considering the size of the crowd—1.15 million. I was intrigued by the span of age differences that participated, including our own group (19 to 81 years).

It was very empowering knowing that the majority of us was pro-choice. I chose to focus on the meaning of the word throughout the day, for it has different meanings for different people. Both the speakers and the people I met focused on Choice—that a woman should have the right to make the choice of what happens to her body, including planning when she has a family. March for Women's Lives was both an enlightening and empowering experience for me. I have enjoyed sharing my experiences with many others and realize that there is a need to explain all that Pro-Choice entails.

WHOOPI GOLDBERG'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS – (roughly verbatim)

We need to let everybody know in all these government buildings that we marched in front of that WE ARE HERE! We are here and we are not kidding. We are not kidding you all....

Look at the person standing next to you—that is what America looks like. We've brought our children and our grandchildren and the children we're thinking of having. We're all here. And we are going to keep coming back again and again and again until they get it. This is no joke! They have gone too far and we are pulling them back!

This is still America. This is no fundamentalist country. (Much applause). The separation of church and state must be maintained. (Much applause). We need to stop the attacks on women's reproductive rights in the name of religion. (Much Applause). Not only here at home but also all over the world.

(Holding up a white coat hanger) Does everybody remember this? Remember what this was used for? There is a whole generation out there standing with us who don't know what this is for. A couple of folks ask me "Why you carry the hanger?" Because this was what life was like before choice. This was the choice. This was it and I'm here to tell you NEVER AGAIN. You understand me? We are not going backward, child. Women under 30, this is what we used. Never again, never again.

There is a war on women going on—denying access to family planning, sex education and abortion. Now explain to me how if you don't have family planning, you can bitch about abortion. Explain that to me. If you're not going to help people get the information they need....Back off. Back off.

We are one vote away from going back to this (holding up the hanger). It is not even an option. We are not going back.

The government continues to slash and destroy critical family planning programs. Critical money is diverted so that abstinence only programs can exist. Excuse me. Excuse-u-u-se me. That can't be the only choice. Every one makes mistakes.

Our country has the power to alleviate suffering around the world. We have the medical science to alleviate suffering around the world. But we are increasing it. Women are dying around the world—dying of illegal abortions. One woman every 6 minutes. Let's do the math. Since the march began at 10 AM, 30 women have died of illegal abortions because they got pregnant in the wrong country.

We can turn the tide. Every woman in every country has the right to her own life. It is ok to have your own opinion as long as choice is preserved.

Even God gave you freedom of choice. And what God has given you, let no man take asunder, child. God gave us freedom of choice. They say that's what elevates us above the animals. Well let's exercise that choice.

(Holding hanger above head) Never again! We are not going backwards!

IT HAPPENED HERE

In 1990 the Christian Coalition put out a video, *America at the Crossroads* in which Pat Robertson said "it's time to mobilize Christians one precinct at a time, one community at a time, and one state at a time until once again we are the head and not the tail, at the top and not the bottom of our political system. It's time to say Christians are Americans too." At about that time Cortland witnessed the arrival from Canada of a cult-like fundamentalist church—clergy, members and all. They took over neighborhoods and attempted to take over the local Republican Party with their extreme right wing positions. With incredible energies and zeal, they ran for school boards and local offices.

We began hearing concerns from Cortland's therapeutic and religious communities. A former member said of the church that, "gradually the self-righteous veneer was peeled away to reveal a hypocritical and manipulative system. They eventually disbanded and many moved away. At the national level we are not so fortunate as the opening paragraphs of the NYT's editorial below illustrate. They have indeed captured the precincts.

Twelve years ago, the last time abortion rights supporters rallied in the nation's capital, the political struggle was raw and fundamental.

The Supreme Court was reviewing *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark decision on the constitutional right to abortion, and nobody knew whether the law would survive. Anti-abortion protesters had been conducting a series of mass demonstrations, blockading clinics in Wichita, Kan., and elsewhere. Abortion rights leaders said they did not have to struggle to build a sense of urgency in their ranks, or to make the case to the more ambivalent voters in the middle that basic reproductive rights were at stake.

Today, as they assemble on the Washington Mall, the movement faces a far more complicated and in some ways more challenging political landscape. The anti-abortion movement is more confident, more sophisticated and far more ensconced in the government, with allies now in control of the House, the Senate and the White House.

Its legislative goals are incremental, careful and popular with Americans who would oppose an outright ban on abortion, even if this agenda is considered by its opponents to be a stealthy chipping away of rights. **The anti-abortion movement has, in many ways, become part of the establishment.** (*Our emphasis*)
Robin Toner NYT 4-25-04

BACK UP YOUR BIRTH CONTROL

NARAL Pro-Choice New York is partnering with the Back Up Your Birth Control Campaign to turn up the heat on the Bush Administration and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to make the emergency contraceptive pill Plan B® available over-the-counter. The Bush Administration is pressuring the FDA to ignore the recommendations of their own advisory boards and postpone the decision on the over-the-counter application for Plan B.

WHY DID WE MARCH ON WASHINGTON?

This quote from the draft statement on *Women's Rights to Reproductive Choice* from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ithaca, N.Y., sums up why some of us marched for women's lives in Washington on April 25, 2004.

"It is as onerous and unlawful to compel pregnancy and birth as it is to compel an abortion."

ISSUES OF THE MARCH

1. "Unborn Victims of Violence Act," which a smirking President Bush signed into law on April 1. Democrats provided the margin of passage for this latest reactionary measure; 47 Democrats voted for the bill, as well as 13 in the Senate.

2. Mis-named the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003 in order to give the method a ghoulish cast, it is the first to ban a specific kind of abortion procedure. The very rare procedure is almost always performed when the mother's life or health is endangered by the pregnancy, and no alternative methods are considered safer. The fetus is defined as a living being separate from the mother from the "time of conception," thus giving separate standing to an unborn child as a victim in cases of harm to a woman who is pregnant.

3. From nearly the day that he took office, Bush has established a record against reproductive rights. One of his early actions was to order a ban on funding of family-planning groups around the world that offered or counseled women on abortion. He also issued an executive order prohibiting federal funding of potentially valuable stem cell research, even though the embryos used were incapable of developing into human life.

Democrats in Congress have provided the key votes in pushing through Bush's anti-abortion initiatives.

SPEAKER QUOTES:

Gloria Steinem: "One third of all the women here are under age 25."

Kate Michelman: "We have to march to make people stop and think. There are two facts that don't quite fit together: Most Americans support a woman's right to choose, and yet the most

powerful political institutions of our government are in the hands of people who want to take that right to choose away."

Hillary Clinton: "All the people are here today not only to march on behalf of women's lives, but to take that energy into the election in November."

WHITE HOUSE RESPONDS TO THE MARCH

The White House tried as hard as it could to denigrate the March for Women's Lives. Dick Cheney's top advisor, Mary Matalin, said it was "**Out of touch and irrelevant.**" President Bush's closest confidante, Karen Hughes, compared pro-choice Americans to terrorists. When asked by CNN about the March, she responded: "I think that after September 11, the American people are valuing life more and we need policies to value the dignity and worth of every life. Really, the fundamental issue between us and the terror network we fight is that we value every life."

Democratic members of Congress joined the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the Feminist Majority in calling on Hughes to apologize for remarks made Sunday on CNN's "Late Edition."

HUGE VICTORY FOR MEDICAL PRIVACY

Even George Bush couldn't ignore it when 1.15 million pro-choice Americans walk past his front yard. Yesterday, he had his Justice Department withdraw its outrageous demand that thousands of women who'd had abortions turn over their private medical records for John Ashcroft's perusal. Everyone who marched, or sent a message to the marchers, or contributed to help make it happen should feel enormously proud. You helped stop Bush and Ashcroft.

NARAL PROCHOICE AMERICA Website 4-27-04

HARD TO BE A REPUBLICAN IN 2004

Somehow, you have to believe that:

1. Jesus loves you, and shares your hatred of homosexuals and Hillary Clinton.
2. The United States should get out of the United Nations, and our highest national priority is enforcing U. N. resolutions against Iraq.
3. "Standing Tall for America" means firing your workers and moving their jobs to India.
4. A woman can't be trusted with decisions about her own body, but multi-national corporations can make decisions affecting all mankind without regulation.
5. Being a drug addict is a moral failing and a crime, unless you're a conservative radio host. Then it's an illness and you need our prayers for your recovery.
6. The best way to improve military morale is to praise the troops in speeches while slashing veterans' benefits and combat pay.
7. Group sex and drug use are degenerate sins unless you someday run for governor of California as a Republican.
8. If condoms are kept out of schools, adolescents won't have sex.
9. A good way to fight terrorism is to belittle our long-time allies, then demand their cooperation and money.
10. HMOs and insurance companies have the interests of the public at heart.

11. Providing health care to all Iraqis is sound policy. Providing health care to all Americans is socialism.
 12. Global warming and tobacco's link to cancer are junk science, but creationism should be taught in schools.
 13. It is okay that the Bush family has done \$millions of business with the Bin Laden family.
 14. Saddam was a good guy when Reagan armed him, a bad guy when Bush's daddy made war on him, a good guy when Cheney did business with him and a bad guy when Bush needed a "we can't find Bin Laden" diversion.
 15. A president lying about an extramarital affair is an impeachable offense. A president lying to enlist support for a war in which thousands die is solid defense policy.
 16. Government should limit itself to the powers named in the Constitution, which include banning gay marriages and censoring the Internet.
 17. The public has a right to know about Hillary's cattle trades, but George Bush's Harken Oil stock trade are none of our business.
 18. You support states' rights, which means Attorney General John Ashcroft can tell states what local voter initiatives they have a right to adopt.
 19. What Bill Clinton did in the 1960s is of vital national interest, but what Bush did in the '80s is irrelevant.
 20. Trade with Cuba is wrong because the country is communist, but trade with China and Vietnam is vital to a spirit of international harmony.
 21. Affirmative Action is wrong but that it is ok for your Daddy and his friends to get you into Yale, the Texas Air National Guard, Harvard Business School, part ownership of Harken Oil, part ownership of the Texas Rangers, the Governorship of Texas and then have the Supreme Court appoint you President of the USA.
- Internet, Author/Source Unknown

HEADLINES/OTHER NEWS PRIMARILY FROM THE NYT

1/17 Judicial End Run: Bush appoints ultra conservative and previously rejected Charles Pickering to 5th Circuit Federal Court as a recess appointment.

2/9 Ashcroft attempts to subpoena medical records of women who have had late term abortions – this in conjunction with the passage of the so call partial birth abortion ban.

2/13 Bush proposes to DOUBLE funding for abstinence only sex ed that bars the discussion of contraception and condoms for prevention of pregnancy and HIV/AIDS despite the lack of evidence that these programs work. The CDC says you must teach abstinence and contraception to be effective.

2/14 FDA delays decision to sell EC –Emergency Contraception (NOT RU-486) over the counter despite the recommendations of 2 scientific advisory boards.

2/19 Having a change of heart (brain), the original plaintiff in the 1973 decision, Norma McCorvey (Jane Roe) files a motion at the 5th US Court of Appeals in Texas to overturn Roe v Wade after 31 years.

2/21 Bypassing the Senate confirmation process for the second time, Bush seats another conservative judge, William Pryor to the Federal Court of Appeals.

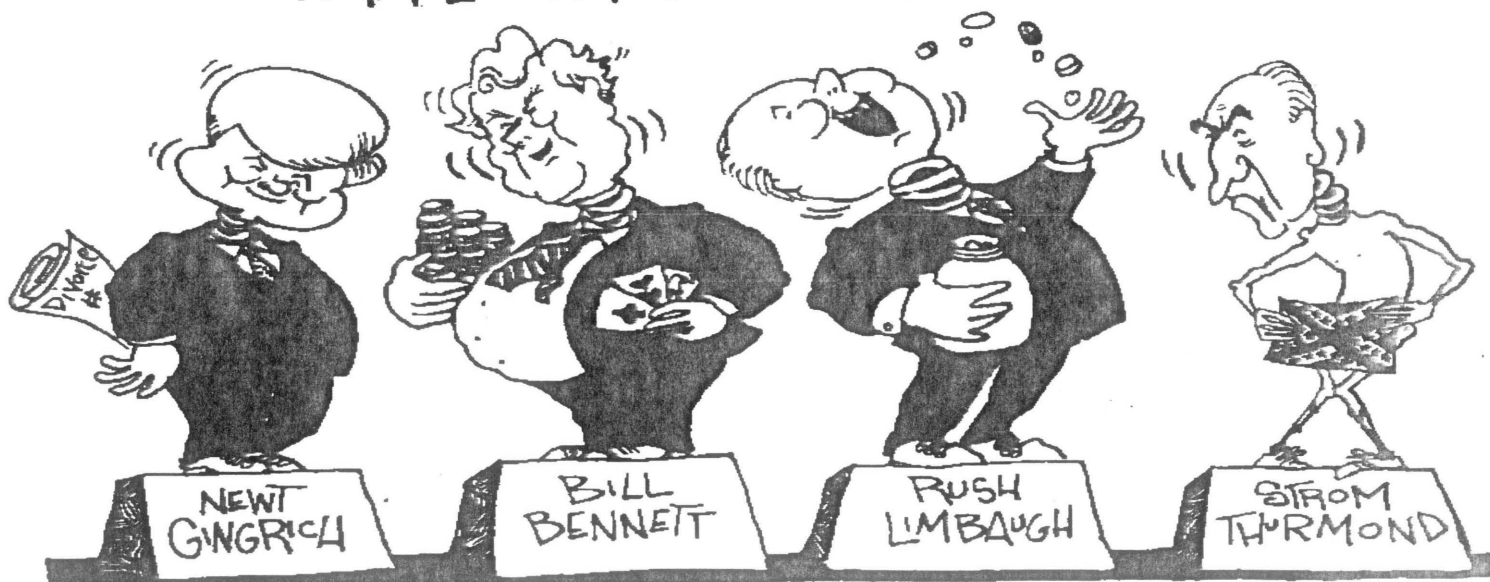
3/2 Courts say that California Catholic Charities must pay for birth control for their employees per new insurance laws. NY has same law.

3/13 Federal judge orders release of medical records of women who have had late term abortions when the University of Michigan Health Services refuse to comply with Ashcroft's subpoena.

4/25 Biggest March for Women's Reproductive Rights in history of U.S.

4/27 Ashcroft stops pursuing medical records of women who have had late term abortions.

FAMILY VALUES BOBBLEHEADS



Signe Wilkinson
Philadelphia Daily News
Washington Post Writers Group



Signe Wilkinson
Philadelphia Daily News
Washington Post Writers Group

FABULOUS PRESS COVERAGE FOR MARCH

Friday April 23 - Very Positive editorial about the March indicating how important it is to be heard by the government:

Monday April 26 - Front-page news coverage and full color photo of March;

Tuesday April 27 - Photo of March and interviews with numerous locals who had attended the March;

Friday April 30 - An expected letter to the Editor from an Anti.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail Checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
PO Box 385 * Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

ProChoice Friend - Name and Address _____

Contributions \$50 \$25 \$20 \$10 Other

Please note that contributions are not tax deductible.

THANKS TO:

All the people who went to Washington to stand up for Choice. Unreal!

Those who write the thank-you cards to all our contributors, and our treasurer;

Our layout specialist;

Our contributors – we think of folding every now and then but you keep sending money so we think that you must be reading this.

To the Cortland Standard

CALENDAR

May 18 School Board Elections

City of Cortland Noon-9:00PM McGraw Noon to 9PM

Marathon 9AM-9PM Homer 7AM-9PM

Cincinnatus Noon to 8PM

September 1 Choice Newsletter issued

August 20 Last Day to register to vote in primary

September 14 Primary Day

September 18 or October 16 Women's Coalition "Meet the Candidates Forum"

October 13 Last day to register to vote in general election.

October 21 Choice Newsletter — Election Issue with Candidate Survey

November 2 Election Day

**OCTOBER 16TH MEET THE CANDIDATES FORU
SENIOR CITIZEN HIGH RISE,
51 PT. WATSON ST 10 AM TO NOON
WATCH FOR THE
WOMEN'S COALITION VOTER'S GUIDE**

Cortland, NY 13045



Choice

**THEY COULD HAVE CHANGED
THE COURSE OF HISTORY.
MILLIONS OF REGISTERED
WOMEN VOTERS STAYED
HOME IN THE 2000 ELECTION.**

NADER FACTOR IN 2004

A divided Green Party met in June and endorsed California attorney David Cobb as their candidate for president rather than Ralph Nader as they had done in 2000. Nader does, however, have the endorsement of Ross Perot's Reform Party.

Some have suggested that Nader choose the same set of electors as Kerry/Edwards so that he would not be a spoiler in a tight election.

BARBARA EHRENREICH'S 7-18-04 NYTS
EDITORIAL TELLS RALPH TO GIVE IT UP:

In 2000, you could at least claim to be doing it all for the Green Party. This summer you didn't even bother to drop by its convention. You were in Portland, Ore., addressing an audience of 1,100 (you got almost 10 times as many there four years ago) that was heavily larded with conservatives eager to get you on the ballot to suck votes from John Kerry. When Howard Dean confronted you about your conservative "supporters," you lamely observed that "Republicans are human beings too."

Republicans are the least of it. You've been kissing up to the Reform Party, which ran paleo-right-winger Pat Buchanan the last time around. You've been caught dallying with the former New Alliance Party, described by Christopher Hitchens, with his customary restraint, as a "zombie cult." I loved you for your principles, not your lean hot bod, and now you've tossed them for a few more moments in the sun.

END OF LIFE ISSUES

The "federal appeals court handed the Justice Department a stinging rebuke this week, ruling that it had exceeded its authority when it tried to block Oregon's assisted-suicide law. The decision is an important victory for the terminally ill, and a blow to (Attorney General Ashcroft and) the administration's habit of letting an ideological agenda interfere with fair enforcement of the law." Oregonians voted for a Death With Dignity Act in 1994 allowing terminally ill people to receive lethal drugs from their doctors.

NYT Editorial 6-8-04

**BUSH'S BACKDOOR
APPOINTMENTS**

"Senate leaders stood up to President Bush's court packing scheme, winning a victory for the pro-choice movement by securing a promise that Bush will not appoint more judicial nominees while the Senate is in recess." Bush has named two of these three right wing nominees: Carolyn Kuhl, Priscilla Owen, and Janice Rogers Brown to the federal bench during a Senate recess. A quarter million Pro-Choice letters and emails to senators helped them extract this promise from Bush.

There is still one nominee to the bench to watch-- and he's one of the worst of Bush's bunch. James Leon Holmes has written that the role of 'the wife is to subordinate herself to her husband.' He has compared pro-choice activists to 'Nazis,' said that rape victims don't get pregnant, and compared abortion to slavery.

NARAL PRO-CHOICE AMERICA 5/20/04

**BUSH REAPPOINTS
HAGER TO FDA**

"W. David Hager, a staunch and active opponent of a woman's right to choose," was appointed to the Food and Drug Administration's Reproductive Health Drugs Advisory Committee. He is opposed to easy access to Emergency Contraception (the morning after pill) and to other important methods of birth control. Once again Bush has allowed anti-choice ideology to trump science, women's reproductive health and common sense.

NARAL PRO-CHOICE AMERICA 6-29-04

September 2004
Volume 13
Number 3

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

THIS IS IMPORTANT—73 % OF REPUBLICANS ARE PRO-CHOICE

That's right. The overwhelming majority of Republicans support choice. This is from the latest nationwide *American Viewpoint* survey of May 2004. Yet President Bush continues to use abortion to divide the country.

"Republican leaders think that acknowledging this truth will cost them their political base" according to a recent (June '04) fund-raiser letter from the Republican Majority for Choice. This group sees its mission as unleashing the power of that majority, letting Republicans know that they are not alone but rather part of a substantial majority.

EXPENDABLE WOMEN

Editorial from the NYT July 5, 2004

One of the uglier aspects of the Bush administration's assault on women's reproductive rights is its concerted undermining of the United Nations Population Fund based on the false accusation that it supports coerced abortions in China.

The fund supports programs in some 141 countries to advance poor women's reproductive health, reduce infant mortality, end the sexual trafficking of women and prevent the spread of H.I.V. and AIDS. Yet under pressure from conservative religious groups, the administration is expected to withhold the \$34 million that Congress appropriated this year for these vital efforts, much as President Bush blocked the \$34 million Congress approved in 2002 and last year's \$25 million allocation.

The damage does not end there. The administration has lately stepped up its effort to isolate the Population Fund by quietly threatening the financing of other leading groups, including Unicef and the World Health Organization, if they continue to work with the fund.

Take the chilling example of Marie Stopes International. Last year the State Department discontinued support for a small but well-regarded private AIDS program for African and Asian refugees run by Marie Stopes and other groups, citing Marie Stopes's cooperating in China with the Population Fund.

Just last month, three federal agencies — the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — pulled their support from a major international conference on health issues, apparently owing to the inclusion of speakers from the Population Fund and the International Planned Parenthood Federation. To justify these destructive machinations, the Bush administration has perpetuated a bogus accusation that the Population Fund has either stood by or helped with coerced abortions in China. This disregards America's own relationship with China, never mind that none of the money approved by Congress would go to China, or that the State Department's investigating team found no evidence that the Population Fund has supported or participated in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization. It also disregards the Population Fund's crucial role in helping to drive down China's abortion rate

below the level of the United States and in encouraging China to devote new attention to combating H.I.V. and AIDS.

In truth, the administration's targeting of the Population Fund is not really about abortion. It is an attack on comprehensive family planning and women's sexual and reproductive autonomy, driven largely by right-wing ideologues unswervingly opposed to all forms of family planning and contraceptive use. (Our emphasis) As a result, the United States is helping to deny vulnerable women living in isolated rural areas essential information and services needed to avoid pregnancy and disease.

FOR 3RD YEAR, US CUTS UN POPULATION FUND FINANCING

Saying that the UN Population Fund cooperates with China to promote abortion, the US withheld \$34 million in support for the agency.

Spokesperson for the agency, Sarah Craven, said that "the administration's contention that the agency indirectly supported China's coercive policies (regarding family size) was 'false and absolutely baseless'." She pointed to the UN success in increasing the use of contraceptives to 90% in 32 counties in China. It was reported that in those counties "the rate of abortions to live births is now below the level in the US."

The cut in funds would also mean "that women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere in Asia will be deprived of potentially life-saving help," through programs designed to reduce HIV transmission and maternal and infant mortality.

NYT 7-17-04

HEALTH COUNCIL LOSES FEDERAL FUNDING

Nils Daulaire, president of the Global Health Council accused the Bush administration of caving in to a "small clique of right-wing extremists" in response to the abrupt ending of 30 years of support. Federal officials were also discouraged from attending the council's international conference held in Washington. Strong lobbying from the Traditional Values Coalition and American Life League were effective in this decision. The Council was accused of lobbying with federal money because they planned an advocacy day — no different from federal fund receiving organizations such as the National Association of Evangelicals or Boeing Inc. Washington Post 6/4/04

OTHER GROUPS HARRASSED

For the past 20 years, Advocates for Youth, a Washington-based organization devoted to adolescent sexual health has received government grants without much trouble. Last year it was subjected to three federal reviews.

According to James Wagoner, Advocates for Youth president, the reviews were prompted by concerns that his group was using public funds to lobby against programs that promoted sexual abstinence before marriage. "Although that was not the case, Mr. Wagoner said, the government officials made their point."

"For 20 years, it was about health and science, and now we have a political ideological approach," he said. "Never have we experienced a climate of intimidation and censorship as we have today."

The International Working Group on Sexuality and Social Policy, an association of researchers and other professionals, just released a report two weeks ago citing examples of what it called sex policing under the Bush administration. "The report cited changes in factual information about sex education and H.I.V. transmission on government Web sites as well as questioning by members of Congress about research grants approved by the National Institutes of Health." One former federal health administrator was disturbed by the trends in the agency to promote condoms as ineffective in preventing disease, to omit information about contraception on Web sites and to oppose new financing for comprehensive sex education programs.

But Tom Skinner, a spokesman for the government, "denied any bias, saying that the agency's decisions were guided by honesty and ethics. 'Scientific integrity is really important here,' Mr. Skinner said." NYT 7/11/04

ABORTION RIGHTS WIN IN CALIFORNIA COURT

A federal judge in California rejected the federal abortion (the so-called, partial birth abortion) ban passed by Congress in 2003 and signed by President Bush. Judge Phyllis Hamilton in her 117-page ruling faulted "the vagueness and ambiguity of the statute's key term, especially the term partial birth abortion which was invented for political purposes and has ... little if any medical significance." Among other defects, the absence of the constitutionally required exception to preserve a woman's health was noted.

Attorney General Ashcroft attempted to obtain hundreds of confidential medical records from Planned Parenthood for this case. Hamilton ruled against this. It is very likely that appeals will bring the issue once again to the Supreme Court.

NYT 6-5-04

"CURVES" FITNESS INDUSTRY AND ANTI-ABORTION FUNDING

According to a May 2004 Alternet.org piece, CURVES is the fastest growing franchise in the world because of its low prices and woman friendly environment. The problem is that the owner, Gary Heavin found religion when he was serving a jail term and he donates millions of his profits to some very anti-abortion groups.

IS E.C. ABORTION OR BIRTH CONTROL?

With the increased awareness of the availability of emergency contraception, or EC, came the increased right-to-life efforts to deny access. They were successful in getting the FDA to ban the over-the counter availability, overruling the nearly unanimous recommendation of FDA's own expert advisory panel and the testimony of almost every major medical organization in the country. They also succeeded in getting "conscience clause" legislation through some state legislatures — pharmacists and health care workers are thus allowed to withhold medications based on conscience. This is a real problem for traumatized rape victims who need to seek EC care in a very timely manner.

Scientists and doctors from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist (ACOG), the AMA, Physicians for Repro-

ductive Choice and Health and state health departments have tried to clarify the question at the heart of all the controversy. Most claim that "EC can prevent but not terminate a pregnancy. EC works much like birth control pills: Taken in two doses, the drug stops the release of the egg from the ovary, preventing fertilization. In the case of fertilization, EC may prevent a fertilized egg from attaching to the womb. If a woman is already pregnant and an embryo is already implanted in the wall of the uterus, EC will have no effect."

www.Alternet.org 8-19-04

SCIENCE OR POLITICS

Abortion is a difficult issue fraught with moral ambiguity -- far better to prevent the need for abortion. So, of course the logical solution is to fund effective pregnancy prevention efforts—good sexuality education and contraception.

However, clinics — locally and nationally -- are facing huge cuts in their budgets this year and the UN population fund was not funded for the 3rd year in a row.

Congress, ignoring science and common sense, has allocated over \$300 million since the fall of 1996 to fund unproven "abstinence until marriage" programs that do not provide information on condoms or contraception. All this, despite the fact that the AMA, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Institutes of Health, the Institute of Medicine and the Office of National AIDS Policy have each recently issued reports advocating comprehensive sexuality education stressing both abstinence and contraception.

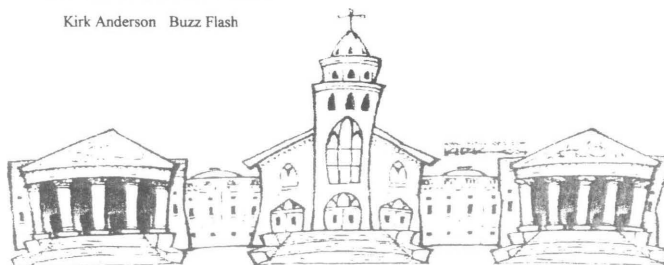
CONDOM WARS

Doug Ireland of the 6-25-04 LA Weekly states that:

Lethal new regulations from President Bush's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, quietly issued with no fanfare last week, complete the right-wing Republicans' goal of gutting HIV-prevention education in the United States. In place of effective, disease-preventing safe-sex education, little will soon remain except failed programs that denounce condom use, while teaching abstinence as the only way to prevent the spread of AIDS. And those abstinence-only programs, researchers say, actually increase the risk of contracting AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Published on June 16 in the Federal Register, the censorious new CDC guidelines will be mandatory for any organization that does HIV-prevention work and also receives federal funds -- whether or not any federal money is directly spent on their programs designed to fight the spread of the epidemic. (The CDC is the principal federal funder of prevention education about HIV and AIDS, and its head is a Bush appointee).

Kirk Anderson Buzz Flash



UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES -- U.S. WORST OF ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Carol Love, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Syracuse presented the following statistics in her speech at the Cortland YWCA's annual meeting in May 2004:

Fifty percent of all pregnancies in the US are unplanned; those figures for teens are 80%; for married women, 40%; for women over 40 years of age, 75%. In total, there are 1.5 million unintended pregnancies each year and one half end in abortion. The good news is that teen pregnancies are down nationwide.

DON'T WE HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DEBATE IN CONGRESS?

Whose harebrain idea was it to put forth an amendment to the Constitution to ban gay marriage? Sure it was bigotry; sure it is election year politics; sure they knew they would lose – but in losing they won.

Just as previously pro-choice Governor Reagan enlisted the highly organized direct mailing resources of a burgeoning religious right anti-abortion movement, so too does George W. use gay marriage as his cultural war issue. As Thomas Frank says in a NYT's editorial of 7-16-04, this loss makes the conservative base feel as if they "are under siege from a cabal of know-it-all elites. The common people are being trampled by the intellectuals." (Remember "Effete intellectual snobs"?)

Failure mobilizes the base better than anything.

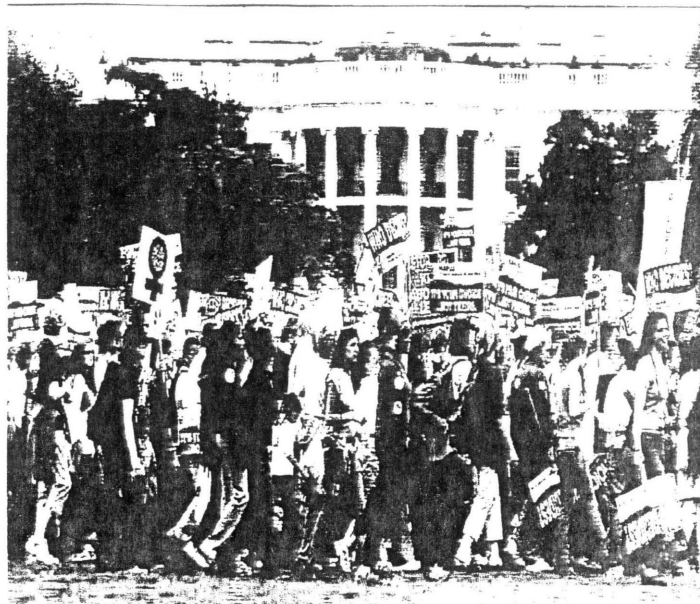
LOOK FOR THE ABSURDITIES IN LIFE

*A Republican convention that will probably look like a "Motown Review" as in 2000.

*No Child Left Behind legislation under funded by \$26 billion.

*Bush saying to the well heeled gathering in NYC, "This is an impressive crowd: the haves and the have-mores. Some people call you the elite, I call you my base."

Bob Herbert NYT editorial 7-16-04



NARAL PROCHOICE AMERICA NEWS Summer 2004



P.P. Rochester/Syracuse Newsletter

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail Checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
PO Box 385 * Cortland, NY 13045

*I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for
candidates who also support that right.*

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

ProChoice Friend - Name and Address _____

Contributions \$50 \$25 \$20 \$10 Other

Please note that contributions are not tax deductible.

THANKS TO

Thanks to our Wonderful Treasurer, Mail Stuffers, Postcard Mailer, Writers, Editors, \$\$Contributors and Doug.

CALENDAR

October 16 Women's Coalition "**Meet the Candidates**"

10-12Noon Senior Citizen High Rise @ 51 Pt Watson St.

October 21 Pro-Choice Mailing Party.

October 25 Mail Arrival of Choice Newsletter with
Special Election Guide.

Jan 22 32nd Anniversary of Roe V Wade.

January 2005 Once-a-Year Fund Raising Effort for Cortland Coalition For Choice.

VOTE AND THE CHOICE IS YOURS

November 2, 2004

6:00AM to 9:00P



Cortland, NY 13045

Interesting Election Sites: <http://www.SelecSmart.com>, www.Vote-smart.org and
www.electoral-vote.com/

Choice

NEXT PRESIDENT AND THE SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court begins its 10th year without a vacancy. All justices, except Clarence Thomas, are older than 65. The next president will surely have a chance to appoint a new justice. The nine-member court is generally divided into 3 camps: 3 conservatives, 3 in the middle and 3 moderately liberal. The Oct 1, 2004 Cortland Standard says, "Depending on who is counting, the court is one or two away from overturning Roe vs. Wade, the 3-decade-old ruling that affirmed the legality of abortion. In an AP-Ipsos poll 56% of those surveyed said they wanted the president to nominate a Supreme Court justice with conservative political views if a vacancy occurs: 37% said they preferred a justice with liberal views." Ed: Yikes!)

TUCSON DIOCESE IS SECOND TO FILE BANKRUPTCY

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Tucson filed bankruptcy due to costs associated with clerical sexual abuse cases. The diocese settled 11 abuse lawsuits filed by 16 plaintiffs for more than \$10 million two years ago. There are 22 additional molestation claims with 34 plaintiffs that have been brought against the diocese.

The bankruptcy filings allow the financial operations of the Tucson Diocese, which serves 350,000 Catholics in more than 70 parishes, to now be subject to court scrutiny for the first time. According to its financial statement, the diocese had \$4.65 million in long-term debt and a \$7 million deficit in unrestricted net assets. The reorganization calls for most creditors to be paid by the diocese's regular operation. Plaintiffs in sexual abuse cases would be paid from a special pool, said Susan Boswell, the bankruptcy lawyer for the diocese.

"Plaintiffs' advocates saw the filing as an effort to deflect responsibility. The church 'is using this bankruptcy as a public relations tool to make the victims appear to be the predators of the diocese,' a

plaintiffs' lawyer, Lynne Cadigan, said." The Portland Archdiocese in Oregon on July 6 was the first American diocese to file for bankruptcy.

NYT 9-21-04

FOX IN HEN HOUSE — SEND LETTERS TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

President Bush had selected Dr. W. David Hager to head up the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Reproductive Health Drugs Advisory Committee. Controversy prevented him from being named chair. This advisory committee decides on drugs for OB/GYNs and related specialties, including hormone therapy, contraception, treatment for infertility, and medical alternatives to surgical procedures for sterilization and pregnancy termination.

Dr. Hager is the author of "As Jesus Cared for Women: Restoring Women Then and Now." He is outside the mainstream regarding reproductive technology. He is an opponent of abortion, RU-486, and emergency contraception; he advocates abstinence-only, refuses to insert IUDs, and refuses to prescribe birth control to single women.

His prescription for premenstrual syndrome is to read the bible and pray. Dr. Hager appears to have endorsed the medically inaccurate assertion that the common birth control pill is an abortifacient. It can be dangerous when religious beliefs guide medical decision-making; yet in the Bush administration, anti-abortion politics hold public policy and research hostage. See the sample letter below and consider writing to the White House: president@whitehouse.gov

Dear President Bush:

The appointment of Dr. W. David Hager to the FDA Reproductive Health Drugs Advisory Committee threatened the basic tenets of separation of church and state. Worse, mixing religion and medicine is unacceptable in a policy-making position. Using the FDA to promote a political agenda is inappropriate and seriously threatens women's health.

Members of this important panel should be appointed on the basis of science and medicine, rather than politics and religion. American women deserve no less. Your signature

November 2004
Volume 13
Number 4

CORTLAND COALITION FOR CHOICE NEWSLETTER

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

So, if a seedy impeachment, a media with lap dog mentality, a stolen election and an illegal war don't get the liberals excited, what will? Remember Paul Weyrich? He was an early computer whiz kid who used his direct mail database skills to hammer folks to send money to defeat abortion laws in the late 1970s. He then linked up with (formerly pro-choice governor of California) anti-choice presidential candidate Reagan to do direct mail fund raising to all those little old church ladies.

We have had 25 years of callous right wing tactics: trickle down economics, ketchup as a vegetable, huge tax breaks for the rich, 45 million with no health insurance, tax breaks for job-exporting corporations, laws to take away overtime pay from 6 million workers, tax laws that support phony off-shore businesses and on and on. P.M. Carpender, a writer for buzzflash.com notes "This post-Watergate movement of the 'New Right'... (is) a well orchestrated confederation of political action committees, think tanks, neoconservatives, religious rightists, social conservatives and libertarians (who) introduced into American politics a fresh supply of advanced disingenuousness."

Carpender says that one of the 'New Right' founding strategists, John Terry Dolan of the National Conservative Political Action Committee said in a 1980 Washington Post interview that they were at the "cutting edge of politics" and that the "New Right" activists fueled by massive infusions of cash, are potentially very dangerous to the political process....(We) could amass this great amount of money and defeat the point of accountability in politics. We could say whatever we want...lie through our teeth." And so they have.

Weyrich, also one of the early 'New Right' strategists said that the fight against liberalism was "the most significant battle of the age-old conflict between good and evil that we have seen in our country." Carpender rightfully worries that, "that zealous excess inspired the right to bar no holds. Any expediency drafted in the cause against godless liberalism was legitimate."

THE ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW OF THE MARCH

Karen Hughes, President Bush's advisor, was sent to CNN as the March for Women's Lives was taking place on the Mall in Washington D.C., and used her time "to liken the pro-choice men, women, and children who assembled at the March to the terrorists who blew up the World Trade Center." Instead of discussing reproductive issues, "the president's most influential female advisor invoked the memory of 9/11 to defame pro-choice advocates and challenge the value they place on human life."

NEWSLETTER, W.C.L.A., Summer, 2004

BUSH'S WAR ON WOMEN

Shortly after the Supreme Court stopped the 2000 vote counting in Florida and selected Mr. Bush as the President-elect, he made very evident how his new administration would represent his view of women's rights. Among his earliest appointments were anti-choice extremists John Ashcroft to be Attorney General and Governor Tommy Thompson to be Secretary of Health and Human Services. But these were only the beginning of the across-the-board assault that was to mark this president's four-year term in

office. Two writers for the Newsletter of Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion have compiled lists which record many of his actions, but called "only a smattering" by these authors.

1. Celebrating his first day in office, he reinstated Reagan's Global Gag Rule limiting international family planning services.
 2. He began his "court packing" plan by filling the appeals courts with judges who, among other things, oppose women's right to choose. These are lifetime appointments, and their decisions are as binding in their particular circuits as any Supreme Court decision.
 3. He closed the White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach.
 4. He proposed a budget that sought to eliminate contraception coverage for federal employees.
 5. He cut Maternal and Child health block grants.
 6. He froze money for Healthy Start programs.
 7. For the FY2005 budget he proposed that funding be available exclusively for 'abstinence only' sex education; he froze Title X funding - this is the money that funds all the family planning programs in the country.
 8. He rejected Barr Laboratories' application to make Plan B, an emergency contraceptive, available over-the-counter, despite the overwhelmingly positive recommendations of the FDA's own advisory committees.
 9. His nominations and/or appointments include: Dr. Freda McKissic Bush, an extreme "abstinence only" advocate to head the CDC Advisory Council on HIV and STD prevention; Patricia Funderburk Ware, an "abstinence only" supporter to head the Presidential Council on HIV/AIDS; Former Representative Tom Coburn and Joe McIlhaney, both staunch supporters of "abstinence only" and opponents of condom use, to be co-chair and member, respectively, of the president's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS; W.David Hager to be a member and chair of the Food and Drug Administration's Reproductive Health Drugs Advisory Committee. See article above on Dr. Hager.
- In addition to Dr. Hager, the committee includes two doctors who refuse to prescribe contraceptives.
10. In May 2002, a U.S. delegation, led by Tommy Thompson, insisted that the United Nations Special Session in Children's delete any reference to "reproductive health care" in its final agreement and tried to force the UN body to endorse abstinence-only sex education as the best way to avoid sexually transmitted diseases and/or to unintended pregnancies.
 11. In August 2002, Bush retracted his earlier promise to provide \$2.5 million in emergency funds for Afghan women.
 12. Bush blocked release of \$90 million for Afghan women and \$200 million for HIV/AIDS.
 13. He expanded the global gag rule to include all programs funded by the State Department.
 14. Bush representatives to the UN population conference in Bangkok took the position that the U.S. "supports the sanctity of life from conception to natural death." The delegation then moved to delete from the agreement previously adopted in Cairo the phrases "reproductive rights" and "reproductive health services." Instead the U.S. delegation pressed to have language promoting "natural" family planning inserted. In a rare display of unanimity, the U.S. proposals were voted down 31-1 and 32-1.

This election is probably the most important for women than any since Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973. **BE SURE TO VOTE**

DIRECT QUOTE FROM HOWARD DEAN VIA EMAIL

...Falwell is the fundamentalist who opened the Republican National Convention in 2000 (the GOP kept him under lock-and-key this time around). He asserts that the AIDS crisis is "God's punishment for the society that tolerates homosexuals."

Now he has started a law school. The purpose: to train fundamentalists to ignore laws they don't support and reinterpret others to enforce their radical agenda. The "school" is only the latest move in a monumental power play by the extreme right wing. They have taken over the Republican Party - and have set their sights on every branch of our government...

The press didn't say much about the new law school. But a timid, shallow media is not the only problem. People who support common sense and fairness do not have the same infrastructure as the radical right. For decades they have spent billions of dollars funding, training and amplifying their movement.

In the days after September 11th Falwell said that America deserved to be attacked for, "throwing God out successfully with the help of the federal court system, throwing God out of the public square, out of the schools." He implicated supporters of civil liberties and women's rights, among others, saying: "I point the finger in their face and say, 'You helped this happen.'"

Like the rest of his and George Bush's agenda, the purpose of Falwell's law school is to roll back the progress of the last hundred years. The people of this country have spent a century unraveling hate and prejudice from our legal system. Falwell wants to bring all that back...

I am committed to stopping him. The dozens of candidates DFA has endorsed for every level of office are committed to stopping him and his allies.... Make your commitment today: <http://www.democracyforamerica.com/contribute>

U.S. COURT AGAIN REJECTS (SO CALLED) PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN, DOCTORS NOT CONGRESS, TO DECIDE ON MEDICAL PROCEDURES

Remember the Nov 2003 front-page news articles of the smiling and smirking white men celebrating the signing of the PBA ban. Within the last three months, federal Judges in California, New York and Nebraska, have ruled against what an editorial calls "the potentially far-reaching assault by the White House and Congress on women's health and reproductive freedom". Most recently the NY federal judge ruled that the federal PBA law banning a rarely used method of abortion was unconstitutional. This cornerstone of the Bush agenda was also turned down in federal court in California in Jun and in Nebraska. These judgments were based on a 4-year-old Supreme Court decision that any law limiting abortion must have a clause permitting doctors to use a banned procedure if they determine that the risk to a woman's health would be greater without it. The Supreme Court's opinion struck down a state law in

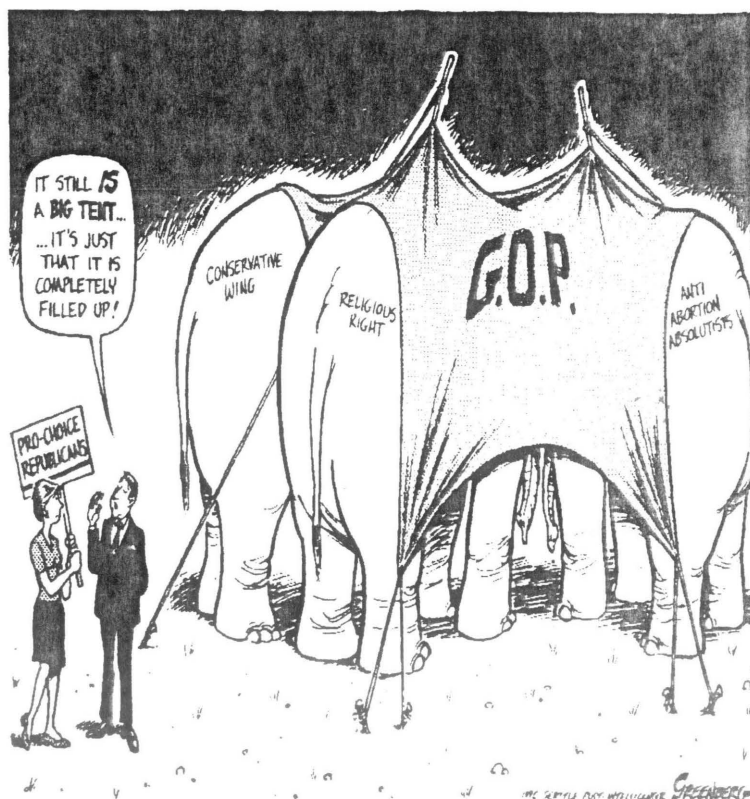
Nebraska. The New York case, which was argued by lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union, was one of three cases challenging the partial-birth abortion law. A challenge in Nebraska is still in federal court there. The NY ruling, by Judge Richard Conway Casey, came in a challenge to the PBA brought by the National Abortion Federation and seven doctors.

In a response, "Attorney General John Ashcroft said in Washington yesterday that the Justice Department would continue to defend the law vigorously and would appeal the ruling." These suits shift the focus of the abortion debate back to the Supreme Court and back to the possibility of an overturn of Roe vs. Wade. Judge Casey was very critical of the PBA procedure but more critical of Congress saying that it had voted for the law without seriously examining the medical issues and that "This court heard more evidence during its trial than Congress heard over the span of eight years." In ruling that PBA is never necessary, Congress ignored the testimony of their own hearings and the "furious dissension among doctors over the safety and necessity of the disputed abortion," Casey said.

Judge Richard Kopf, the Nebraska federal judge, delivered a "stinging rebuke," in which he refuted, "Congress's flimsy legislative 'finding' that the ill-defined procedure it bans is never necessary to protect the health of the mother." He wrote "in the absence of an exception for the health of a woman, banning the procedure constitutes a significant health hazard to women."

He also found the ban to be more sweeping than its proponents like to advertise, encroaching on Roe v. Wade by outlawing at least some common dilation-and-extraction procedures performed starting early in the second trimester, and not just the rarer 'intact dilation' method. Its critics cleverly but inaccurately call that 'partial birth' to equate the pre-viability procedure with killing a newborn infant.

NYT 8/27/04 article and 9-13-04 editorial



"ON A MISSION FROM GOD"

Paul Krugman's column in the NYT in December of 2002 reported that Tom Delay, House Majority Leader, admitted that he was "on a mission from God to promote a 'biblical worldview' in American politics." Delay said recently that his goal is to re-establish what he sees as the rightful role of religion in public places. George W. Bush appeared at the Republican National Convention standing next to (a picture of) Christ.

If you listen to AM radio or the most vibrant bands on the FM dial, you will note the Christian religion has taken over much of the radio choices. Media mergers are up leaving only a handful of dominant players. Bernie Sanders, Representative from Vermont said, "the bottom line is that fewer and fewer huge conglomerates are controlling virtually everything that the ordinary American see, hears, and reads."

Clear Channel is one of these conglomerates that buy up radio stations. Howard Stern - (ED note: Not one of our all time favorites) was signed onto Clear Channel for a 5-year contract and has recently seen a major paradigm shift. Stern says "the religious right is winning. They've won." The Federal Communications Commission (Michael Powell is chair of the FCC) blasts the nastiness of Howard Stern but not that of Michael Savage on Savage Nation (locally on 920 AM). Stern says that this is due to the fact that Savage supports President Bush and that Stern speaks out against Bush's religious agenda forbidding stem cell research and gay union.

The Rev. Barry Lynn, head of the Americans United for the Separation of Church and State put it, "What concerns people is when you mix religion, political power and secrecy." That seems to sum up the state of the union today.

The Rolling Stones cover article (1-28-04) "Reverend Doomsday," discusses Rev. Timothy LaHaye, a key Christian right leader behind George W. Bush. LaHaye wrote the 60 million copy bestseller series, *Left Behind*. He is a strict biblical reconstructionist who says the Bible is God's literal truth and that Armageddon will be unleashed from the "Antichrist's headquarters in Babylon" (i.e Iraq)

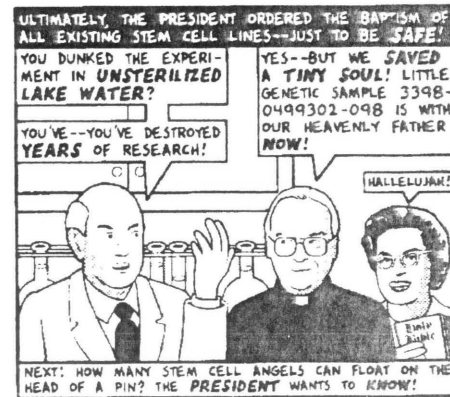
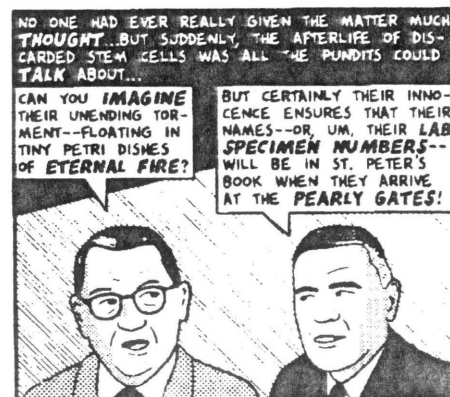
The Stones article goes on to say that we have always had firebrand preachers but they have been at the margins. Now this one has a direct pipeline to the White House and he has convinced

George W. that as commander in chief, he gets his marching orders from on high.

ABC calls the Council for National Policy (CNP) the most conservative group ever. It was co-founded by LaHaye and includes John Ashcroft, Ed Meese, Ralph Reed, Pat Robertson, Jerry Fallwell, Ollie North and more. The CNP helped the Christian Coalition take control of Republican state parties in the South and Midwestern states. (Ed note: We have a tape from a Christian Coalition conference in the 1980s that brags that they will take over the country, precinct by precinct. The frightening thing of this is that we saw it happen in Cortland as the New Life Church took over the local Republican party for a short time.) The Stones article said that the CNP apparently conjured up the Clinton impeachment. Bush made his "king making" speech before the CNP. The text of that speech has never been released.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



Newsletter/MembershipForm

Mail Checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
PO Box 385 * Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

ProChoice Friend - Name and Address _____

Contributions \$50 \$25 \$20 \$10 Other

Please note that contributions are not tax deductible.

THANKS TO

- *Our Workers — Without you, it would be no fun.
- *Our Readers - Without you, we wouldn't be.
- *Our Printers - Nice job.

CALENDAR

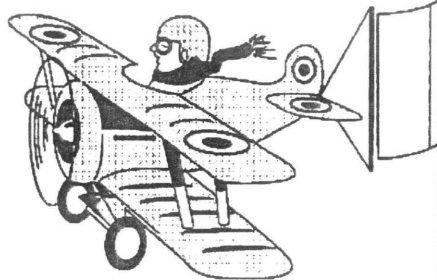
November 2, Election Day Polls are open from 6AM to 9PM

January 2005 Our annual fundraising month

January 22, 2005 The 32 St. Anniversary of Supreme Court decision Roe v Wade

May 2005 Choice Newsletter

November 2005 The Election Edition of Choice with special insert that shows how the candidates compare on issues of importance to women.



FEBRUARY IS ANNUAL FUNDRAISING MONTH

Once a year only we come to you for contributions to pay the postage and printing costs for our Choice newsletter. Hence enclosed small envelope.

C h o i c e

**Jan-Feb 2005
Volume 14
Number 1**

ONE IN THREE HAVE ABORTIONS

I remember the first assembling of my college freshman class. We were told to look to the left and look to the right. One of us would not be there in 4 years. Now think about a group of three women all over 45 years of age. One of them will have had an abortion. One-third of all US. women have abortions. The United States has the highest rate of unintended pregnancies of any developed country in the world. What gives? Why us? Well, Canada, Europe and other developed countries have three things that we don't. Their schools teach medically accurate sex education; they have national health insurance, where health care is a right not a privilege for all; and sex is discussed openly and intelligently and is not so much the subject of coarse jest.

The majority of people in this country are pro-choice. And yet the Democratic Party is struggling as to retain Choice as a plank on their platform. Who were the major spokespeople for the Republican Party at their recent convention? – Pro-choice Arnold Schwatzenegger and George Pataki. No candidate in NY can win a statewide office unless he or she is Pro-choice. That's why Pataki changed despite his anti-choice Senate voting record.

NEVER MIND REALITY

From Ron Suskind NYT Oct 17, 2004

"An aide [a senior adviser to President Bush] said that guys like me were in what we call the reality-based community," which he defined as people who 'believe that solutions emerge from your judicious study of discernible reality.' I nodded and murmured something about enlightenment principles and empiricism. He cut me off. "That's not the way the world really works anymore," he continued. "We're an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality – judiciously, as you will – we'll act again, creating other new realities, which you can study too, and that's how things will sort out. We're history's actors...and you, all of you, will be left to just study what we do."

SUMMARIES OF RECENT NEWS ARTICLES

9-13-04 NYT Three separate rulings by federal judges around the country declared the ban on late term abortion, the so-called "Partial Birth Abortion" ban unconstitutional. This was a stinging rebuke to the assault by the White House and Congress in passing this law.

11-28-04 ABC News Internet Venture "Evangelicals say it is pay back time". They want Bush to immediately act to ban gay marriage and abortion. Christian conservatives were 12% of the voters in 2000 and in 2004 as well but they claim credit for moving Hispanics and African Americans to the Republican side because of their issues.

1-25-05 NYT "Backers of Gay Marriage Ban Use Social Security as Cudgel"

A coalition of major conservative Christian groups is threatening to withhold support for President Bush's plans to remake Social Security unless Mr. Bush vigorously champions a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

WHY DO WE ALLOW THEM TO DEFINE US?

The anti-choice folks excel in using inaccurate and inflammatory language to define pro-choice. We are Pro-Choice not pro-abortion. We can be Right to Life in opposing the death penalty and unjust wars, for example. They are anti-choice and not necessarily Right-to-Life. They may support the rights of an embryo or fetus but health and education for the low-income born child is often not a priority of the legislation they favor. Nor do they usually support funding for birth control or medically accurate, age appropriate sex ed. We support the right of couples to use birth control to, in fact, limit the need for abortions. We support emergency contraception or Plan B, both names for the morning after pill, which is simply several doses of stronger birth control pills taken after rape or a failed method of birth control. We think women should not be forced to have a birth or an abortion. We support choice.

OUR THEOCRACY

Here is the introduction to a web site that might be of interest (theocracywatch.org); it offers a thoughtful perspective on the ongoing efforts of the radical religious right to redirect the nation's future.

"Here we are in the year 2004 and a small group of religious extremists have succeeded beyond their wildest dreams. This web site demonstrates how we got here and how the media, even the progressive media is missing what is the most important story in modern American politics. Please don't misunderstand the title: the Rise of the Religious Right in the Republican Party. **This site is not about religion, nor about Christianity, nor about Republicans. This site is about how a small group of Republican strategists targeted a religious constituency to expand the base of their party, and how a small group of religious extremists targeted the Republican Party to bring the United States government under religious control.**

"The Christian Coalition is certain to make 1992 much more interesting and disturbing than the conventional wisdom is ready to believe. Believe." So investigative journalist Frederick Clarkson warned us after attending the first Christian Coalition Road to Victory gathering in 1991. Clarkson was part of a group of journalists who documented those early years when the Christian Coalition took "working control" of the Republican Party.

Clarkson was talking about the 1992 elections. Just two years later, the Christian Coalition gave the Republican Party majorities in both Houses of Congress for the first time in forty years. Four years after that, a sitting President was impeached for a sexual indiscretion. Is the conventional wisdom ready to believe that the Religious Right could gain control over all three branches of the federal government? Is it conceivable that the United States could become a fundamentalist Christian theocracy or what the Orlando *New Times* calls The United States of Jesus?



FEDS DOWNPLAY CONDOM EFFICACY

The CDC on-line site used to state: "Condoms are effective in preventing HIV and other STDs." In 2002 it was replaced with one stating that "The surest way to avoid transmission of sexually transmitted diseases is to abstain from sexual intercourse... or be in a long-term monogamous relationship with someone you know is not infected."

Better and more scientific information about condom use may be found on the Web site of the American Social Health Association: www.ashastd.org. Also condoms and all methods of birth control are rated in the Feb. '05 issue of *Consumers Report*, p.35.

FEDERAL MILLIONS FOR ABSTINENCE ONLY EDUCATION

In the Fall 2004 issue of *Ms.* an article discusses the influence of abstinence-only or abstinence till marriage (A-O) on comprehensive sex education programs, and how proponents deny students the most basic information about their bodies and about birth control methods. Rep. Henry Waxman (Congressional Report) notes that A-O instruction precludes mention of condoms except for teaching that they are not effective in preventing the spread of STDs.

The report finds that over 80 percent of the abstinence-only curricula...contain false, misleading or distorted information....(it) distort(s) data about the effectiveness of contraceptives, misrepresents the risks associated with abortion, blurs religion and science, treats stereotypes about girls and boys as scientific fact, and contains basic scientific errors.

For example:

"Your body is a wrapped lollipop. When you have sex with a man, he unwraps your lollipop and sucks on it. It may feel great at the time, but, unfortunately, when he's done with you, all you have left for you next partner is a poorly wrapped, saliva-fouled sucker." So said Darren Washington, an A-O educator at the Eighth Annual Abstinence Clearinghouse Conference as he asked for volunteers to use a real lollipop to drive home the metaphor for A-O educators, anti-abortion pregnancy care center attendees, and medical professionals in the audience.

Such programs have been bolstered nationally due to a flood of federal money, even though there is little or no evidence regarding their effectiveness in discouraging sexual activity in teens and preventing STD's.

LOCALLY – LANSING NY SCHOOL BARS A-O PROGRAM

The *Ithaca Journal* (12-21-04) reported that an A-O program provided by the Ithaca Pregnancy Center in the Lansing Middle School has been barred by the Board of Education, at least for this semester, after "intense parental scrutiny." Opponents of the program were concerned that "children from non-traditional families could be upset by its focus on marriage." It was also felt that the Christian affiliation of the sponsoring organization "was inappropriate for a public school." The director and those backing the program contended that "there was no proselytizing – only guidelines for making safe and healthy decisions."

But one parent said she "understood some of the criticism," pointing to "a skit that used a pair of dirty sneakers to symbolize lost virginity." The Board decided "to pass the debate over to a soon-to-be-formed health advisory committee."

In a letter to the *Ithaca Journal* editor on 1-26-05, Joanne Taormina, who attended the Lansing discussions makes it clear that this is not about not teaching abstinence. It is about presenting accurate information and teaching children to think, not what to think.

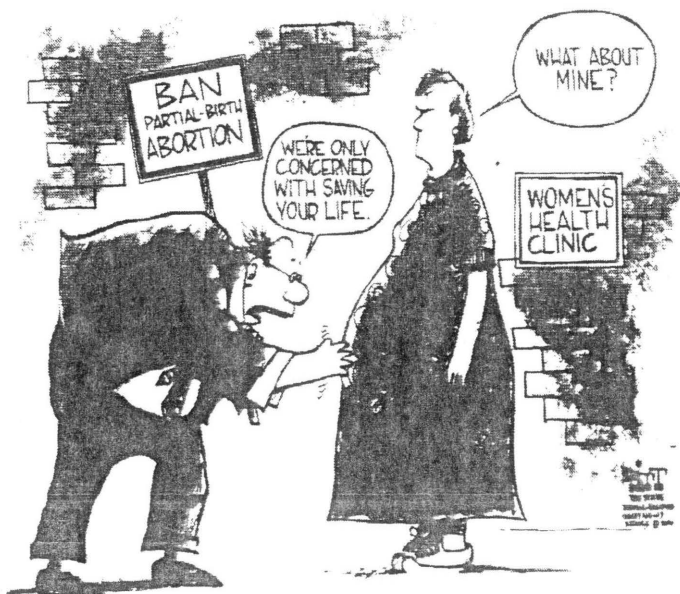
WHO SUPPORTS COMPREHENSIVE SEX ED?

There is proof that age-appropriate, medically accurate comprehensive sex ed delays sexual activity and prevents unintended pregnancy STDs and AIDS among teens. This type of sex ed is sometimes called Abstinence Plus (AP) to distinguish it from AO.

A SIECUS State Profile Fact Sheet states the following information. Ninety percent of registered voters in 2002 supported this type of comprehensive sex ed in public schools. The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, The Institute of Medicine, the National Council of Churches of Christ, the American Jewish Congress, and the Unitarian Universalist Association, The National Education Association, The American School Health Association, all support AP.

WHO FUNDS COMPREHENSIVE SEX ED?

No one! Comprehensive sex ed is not specifically required or directly funded in NYS. NYS requires that health ed. be taught in K-12 with the only required topic being HIV/AIDS; each day in the US, there are 110 new HIV cases and 2,200 new teens pregnancies.



WHO FUNDS ABSTINENCE-ONLY SEX ED?

Federal and state matching funds in the amount of ONE BILLION DOLLARS have been provided for abstinence till marriage education. NYS received \$7 M in fy 2003 for A-O sex ed. Here are examples of misinformation that your federal taxes support:

From curriculum, *Sex Respect*: "Because they generally become aroused less easily, females are in a good position to help young men learn balance in relationships by keeping intimacy in perspective." And "A specific blood test for chlamydia can detect the disease"-Wrong! There is no blood test for chlamydia. And "A young man's natural desire for sex is already strong due to testosterone...females are becoming culturally conditioned to fantasize about sex as well."

From *Me, My World, My Future*: "At the least, the chances of getting pregnant with a condom are 1 out of 6." — Wrong! Condoms used correctly are 98% effective.

CORTLAND PREVENTS THE NEED FOR ABORTION

In 1990, the Health Dept and Catholic Charities of Cortland jointly set out to reduce teen pregnancy. The goal was one-third fewer teen pregnancies by 2000. The program was ZAP and it trained teachers and clergy in Abstinence Plus sex ed, trained parents at their worksites to talk to their kids about sex, and made family planning services and supplies free to high school age teens who were sexually active. Here are the results:

Number and Rate of Teen Pregnancies Cortland County

Year	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002
# pregs.	152	124	118	108	107	100	85
Rate	57.9	50.3	49	45	44	40.6	32

Rate is per 1000 females of age 15-19

SENATOR HILLARY CLINTON AT FAMILY PLANNING ADVOCATES

A large delegation of Cortlandites attended the FPA annual conference January 24-25. Here is the 1-30-05 NYT editorial.

Speaking on Monday to about 1,000 abortion rights supporters in Albany, Mrs. Clinton did two important things. First, at a moment when women's reproductive freedom is under severe assault, she firmly restated her support for *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion nationwide. What made Mrs. Clinton's speech noteworthy, however, was her second, complementary tack. Without retreating on principle, she deftly shifted the focus of the abortion discussion to where there is the broadest agreement, and where President Bush's policy failure is most apparent - namely, abortion prevention. Echoing her husband's call to make abortion "safe, legal and rare," the senator said that abortion "represents a sad, even tragic choice to many, many women," and that "the best way to reduce the number of abortions is to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies in the first place."

This is sensitive political terrain, and Mrs. Clinton surprised, even offended some in her audience by voicing respect for those who oppose legalized abortion based on sincere religious or moral beliefs. Her critics argued that while the sentiment sounded fine, the reality is that most victims of sexual assault; and putting an end to the discriminatory practice of health care plans of covering prescription drugs like *Viagra*, but not prescription contraceptives for women.

These are practical steps for cutting the nation's abortion rate. Perversely, they are also steps President Bush refuses to take. Thanks to Mrs. Clinton's frank talk, now everyone should know that.

Ed note: Mrs. Clinton noted that abortion rates had steadily decreased from 1992 to 2000 and now they are up in 8 states.

Elizabeth Edwards posted this message on the democraticunderground.com website.

"...today I want to share something inspiring, part of a letter from Thomas Jefferson. This is from the new Bernstein biography of Jefferson. Jefferson sent the letter in 1798 after the passage of the Sedition Act:"

A little patience, and we shall see the reign of witches pass over, their spells dissolve, and the people, recovering their true sight, restore their government to its true principles. It is true that in the meantime we are suffering deeply in spirit, and incurring the horrors of a war and long oppressions of enormous public debt. If the game runs sometimes against us at home we must have patience till luck turns, and then we shall have an opportunity of winning back the principles we have lost, for this is a game where principles are at stake.

2004 IN PERSPECTIVE – THE GOOD STUFF

- *NYS passed the law to require Emergency Contraception in all NYS hospital emergency rooms.
- *1.15 million pro-choice Americans marched for women's lives in Washington in April
- California voters passed ballot initiative on stem cell research
- *Sen Clinton and Nadler worked to stop Att. Gen. Ashcroft's access to women's medical charts.
- *Sen. Boxer led the way to secure servicewomen's access to abortion services.

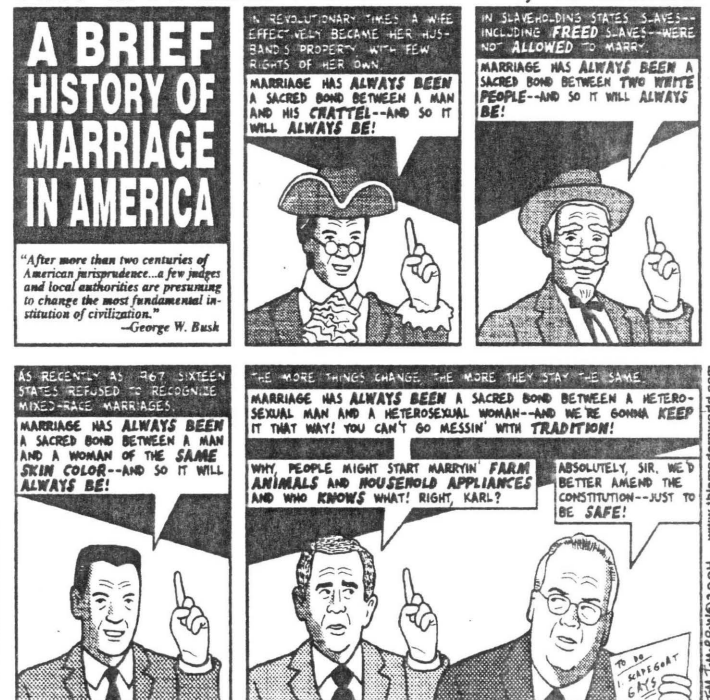
BAD STUFF

- *The election!
- *Att.Gen.Ashcroft subpoenaed women's private medical charts.
- *FDA did not approve over the counter use of Emergency Contraception. It is estimated that EC could prevent 1.7 million pregnancies and 800,000 abortions a year. EC is not the same as the abortion pill or RU-486. EC are strong birth control pills that must be taken within 72 hours of unprotected intercourse. The abortion pill can replace surgical abortion and should be used within 8 weeks of pregnancy.
- *Michigan passed a near-total ban on abortion as state law.

*Bush nominated 52 anti-choice judges to federal appellate positions in 2004, reappointed staunch anti-choice activist W. David Hager to an FDA committee overseeing women's reproductive health drugs and signed 3 anti choice pieces of legislation.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



FACTS ON ABORTION

- 1 in 3 women have them
- 88% are done in the first trimester
- RU-486 fatality risk is slightly less than 1/100,000 cases
- Surgical abortion risk is 0.1/100,000 for abortions at 8 weeks or less.
- Fatality risk for pregnancy is 11.8/100,000

THANKS TO

- *Our Pot Luck Workers — Thanks for the good and hearty laughs. Bring more jokes.
- *Our Readers - You inspire.
- *Our Printers - As always, nice job.
- *Our formatter - Well done.

CALENDAR

May 2005 Choice Newsletter - A look at school board candidates.
November 2005 The Election Edition of Choice with special insert that shows how the candidates compare on issues of importance to women.

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail Checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
PO Box 385 * Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

ProChoice Friend - Name and Address _____

Contributions \$50 \$25 \$20 \$10 Other

Please note that contributions are not tax deductible.

THE RIGHT IS WRONG

Choice

REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE IS SCAPEGOAT IN THE 2004 "MORAL ISSUES" ELECTION

Emily's List, an advocacy group that supports Democratic pro-choice women for political office, analyzed the impact of "moral values" on the 2004 election. "Conservatives and even some Democrats contributed to the misperception that when voters refer to 'moral values' they mean reproductive rights." That is why the so-called "values deficit" of the recent election has been attributed to the Democrats' support for choice.

Pollster Mark Mellman conducted "an exhaustive study of exit and post-election polling. His analyses: "choice was not a negative factor in voters' decision making.... Among the only six percent who did consider it important in their vote, the overwhelming majority were pro-choice." His other findings based on polls:

- 1) "Choice was not a driving factor...where it did play a role, it appears to have helped Democrats....
- 2) When asked, voters described 'moral values' as a candidate's character and decision-making processes, not his or her views on gay marriage....
- 3) A solid majority of Americans remain pro-choice, thereby disputing the 'mandate' to dismantle a woman's right to choose, claimed often by anti-choice leaders....
- 4) Kerry's defeat was largely due to Bush's electoral advantages – incumbency, the economy, Iraq, terrorism, as well as voters' personal feelings about Bush. While choice appears to have been a convenient scapegoat, the facts show that this is far from the truth. A February CBS/NYT poll indicated that "36 percent of adults identified more closely with Democratic Party's views on abortion, while 28 percent chose the GOP.... Democrats can connect with voters on a moral values message because we share the values of mainstream America."

Notes from Emily, March 2005

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION/ THE MORNING AFTER PILL IS NOT ABORTION

From the Plannedparenthood.org website:

Emergency contraception cannot end a pregnancy. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), "Emergency contraceptive pills are not effective if the woman is pregnant; they act by delaying or inhibiting ovulation, and/or altering tubal transport of sperm and/or ova (thereby inhibiting fertilization), and/or altering the endometrium (thereby inhibiting implantation)" (FDA, 1997). A recent study found that most often, ECPs reduce the risk of pregnancy by inhibiting ovulation (Marions, et al., 2002). A more recent study suggests that ECPs only work by preventing ovulation or fertilization, and have no effect on implantation (Croxatto, et al, 2003). Emergency contraception reduces the risk of pregnancy and helps prevent the need for abortion; it itself is not a form of abortion (Grimes, 1997; Guillebaud, 1998; Hughes, 1972; Van Look & Stewart, 1998).

The IUD, used as a regular method of contraception, "alters tubal and uterine transport and affects the sperm and ovum so fertilization does not occur" (Stewart, 1998). Postcoital emergency contraceptive insertion of an IUD may involve the same mechanism in some cases, but it is more likely to interfere with implantation (Van Look & Stewart, 1998).

EDITORIAL ON THE U.N. STATUS OF WOMEN CONFERENCE

We were very angered when our US representative to the recent UN Commission on the Status of Women conference diverted the mission of the 6000 representatives by insisting that the update of the 1995 platform for action not guarantee a woman's right to abortion. The mission of the conference was to "focus on the obstacles to woman's equality in the economy, the family, education and political life." ([Cortland Standard](http://CortlandStandard.com) 3-5-05)

The US delegation further embarrassed us in the arena of world opinion when it insisted that AIDS prevention education be abstinence till marriage. "The loudest

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catcalls, unusual at the world body, came when she (the US representative) articulated U.S. policy on AIDS prevention for adolescents" (NYTimes 3-6-05)

For the edification of our representative to that conference:

1. The majority of people in this country support Roe v. Wade.
 2. One third of all American women will have an abortion in their lifetime.
 3. According to the Republican Majority for Choice national newsletter, 73% of all Republicans support a woman's right to abortion as shown in the *American Viewpoint* survey in May 2004.
 4. Because rape is used as a weapon of war, the right to abortion is critically necessary. Rape within US armed forces is also a problem. Yet no abortions are allowed in military hospitals, even if the woman would pay for the procedure.
 5. Men could end the need for abortion this very moment.
- Of course, we agree that prevention of the need for abortion is our first task. So the logic would be to provide excellent abstinence plus birth control education in our schools. Give teens the tools to resist sexual pressuring. Yet, a total waste of \$1B in US taxpayer dollars has funded abstinence only or till marriage sex education despite no evidence of effectiveness. Funding for birth control clinics also, logically, prevents the need for abortion — yet that funding is in constant peril with the current administration.

WHEN IS THE NEWS NOT THE NEWS — BUSH'S "MAN-DATE"

How is it that a White House reporter with no journalistic experience got the highest security clearance under a name that wasn't his own as he worked for a news service that didn't even exist at that time? This is gay prostitute, Jeff Gannon (James Guckert) of Talon News Service (GOPUSA.com — actually a conservative GOP political activist website known for its anti-Semitic attacks on George Soros). By day, Gannon lobbed softball questions to the president at news conferences. At night, he ran a male escort service for gay Marines and starred on 3 steamy web sites. (Is that a pistol in your pocket or the Washington monument?). This is the same homophobic gay guy photographed reading the Bible on the front lawn of the White House at a national Bible reading marathon. Rev. Rob Schenck organized the marathon. Remember him? He led Operation Rescue in Buffalo NY, in 1992, where protestors totally disrupted clinic operations by hurling themselves at clinic escorts to prevent women from entering the clinic. (A Cortland contingent, serving as clinic escorts, has first hand knowledge of this event etched in our memories.) There were 615 anti-choice folks arrested at this clinic where Dr. Barnett Slepian performed abortions. Many believe that Operation Rescue's publicity in Buffalo most likely spawned his murder.

So the Bush Administration continues to pay for and manipulate the news and newscasters? Why don't the NYT and the Washington Post rail constantly on these breaches? <http://americablog.blogspot.com/2005/02/man-called-jeff.html>

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PRO CHOICE?

As Hillary Clinton positions herself for a presidential run, folks claim that she has moved herself to a centrist position on choice. She says "make abortion rare." Who disagrees with that? There was an old saying that "a woman wants an abortion like a bear caught in a trap wants to chew off its paw to get free."

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF ROE IS OVERTURNED.

The Center for Reproductive Rights put together a state-by-state report to answer this question. Within one year of a Roe reversal, 35 million women in 30 states could lose their right to choose. The old restrictive laws that were never rescinded will become enforceable almost immediately. Without the federal protection of Roe, anti-choice forces will push new laws through conservative state legislatures.

For this reason, we must monitor the nominations to the courts and, particularly, the Supreme Court, should there be a vacancy.

OPPOSE ABORTION? TRY PREVENTION

For years many of us have attempted to seek common ground with the so-called pro-life folks. With some we have agreement on capital punishment and unjust, undeclared wars, and our call to help the poor and least fortunate among us. But we just can't get to agreement on the logic of birth control in the primary prevention of unintended pregnancies.

Since Hillary Clinton's "I'm running for president" speech at the Family Planning Advocates meeting in Albany in January, there is a renewed vigor of this dialogue. Anti-choice, Andrew Sullivan writing for Time Magazine (3-7-05) argues that the pro-choice folks are finally coming around to recognize that there are moral qualms associated with the abortion decision. (Oh, spare me.) This is because Hillary said that abortion should be rare. Of course her husband had said that for 8 years in office and he supported policies that made it so. Abortion rates declined from 1.4million in 1990 to 853,000 in 2001. Now, according to Clinton, they're starting to go up in some states.

Sullivan says both sides need to focus on reducing the need for abortion. "We should fund abstinence programs, as many pro-lifers argue. They work for some women." (How about for some men?) He supports the Harry Reid (D)- Clinton bill expanding access to birth control. He chides anti-choicers to accept birth control and gay adoption. He asks, "Is it really better that someone should have an abortion rather than be on the pill? Is it really preferable for an unborn life to be snuffed out than to allow him to have loving gay parents? Those are the questions that pro-choicers should be posing to pro-lifers. Saving human life is a priority. Why are you so reluctant to do it? Call this position the pro-choice pro-life compromise. If Democrats want to regain credibility on moral issues, it's a great way to start."

"THE RIGHT IS WRONG"

from Notes from Emily 3-05

1. "And I thought I would just share with you what science says today about silicone breast implants. If you have them, you're healthier than if you don't. That is what the ultimate science shows. Sen. Tom Coburn (R. Okla.) MD, on legislation to restrict class action suits. Wash Post 2-7-05

2. "Their idea of reducing pregnancies is more sex education and distribution of contraceptives....That's not the solution, that's part of the problem." Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council, referring to Democratic support for family planning.

Seattle Times, 3-2-05

TERRI SCHIAVO CASE AND THE RIGHT TO LIFERS

Right-to-Life lawlessness prevailed as Randy Terry led Operation Rescue in the 1980 and 90s. Seven doctors and clinic workers were murdered, hundreds of clinics were fire-bombed, provocative "Wanted Dead or Alive" pictures of doctors were posted on hateful websites, and anthrax mailings were sent to Planned Parenthoods – all to deny a woman the exercise of her constitutional right to choose abortion.

Now, Terry, who has since left his wife and children for another woman and has been tossed out of his church, serves as a spokesman for Terri Schiavo's parents and the lawlessness continues. Again, clergy and militant spokespeople incite hysteria. We have Richard Alan Meywes of N.C. under arrest for offering a bounty via e-mail of \$250,000 to kill Michael Schiavo and \$50,000 for the Judge Greer who ordered that Terri be allowed to die. On Thursday before her death, state agents from the Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement traveled to Hospice Woodside to seize Terri and have the tube reinserted. Local police at the hospice prepared for a "showdown" according to the Miami Herald of 3-25-05. They informed the agents that unless they had a judge with them, they were not allowed entrance. "The agents from the FDLE, accompanied by staff from the State Dept. and Children & Families then backed down, apparently concerned about confronting local police outside the hospice."

And this is to say nothing of the hysteria at midnight in Congress where "Honest" Tom DeLay, who believes that he's on a mission to bring a "biblical worldview" to American politics, said that all Terri needed was speech therapy. And the good doctor Frist diagnosed Terri via videotape.

"On Friday, the Rev. Patrick Mahoney, leader of the Christian Defense Coalition and one of the organizers of protests outside the hospice, led a demonstration at the governor's mansion. Some among the small group of protesters carried signs critical of Mr. Bush: "Don't be a Pontius Pilate," read one sign, while another said, "Jeb, you shall not murder." Governor Bush, who has said he has done all he believes he can under Florida law to prolong Ms. Schiavo's life, has become a particular target of the protesters' scorn in recent days. Some advisers to the Schindler family were openly hostile to him on Saturday. "Governor Bush has stopped taking our calls," said Randall Terry, a longtime anti-abortion activist and adviser to the Schindlers. "But we have not given up hope

for a miracle."Police snipers were spotted on the roof of the hospice by several protesters who arrived early on Saturday, and police dogs could be heard barking from behind the police lines. Capt. Michael Haworth, a spokesman for the Pinellas Park Police, said he could not say whether there were snipers posted but added that police officers had received threats. "There are people out there who want to do us some harm," Captain Haworth said. "All you've got to do is look at the Web sites." 3-27-05 NYT

And too bad that the media doesn't pay any attention to the other protestors in the streets – those Catholic peace workers getting arrested at the draft boards. That's about life!

NYT EDITORIAL

"The case attracted outsiders in search of little more than another opportunity to further their own self-aggrandizement. But worst of all were the powerful people who looked at the world we live in today, in which politics is about maximizing hysteria at the margins, and concluded that the Schiavo fight was a win-win - for everyone but the people who actually cared about the dying woman. Today, finally, there is a moment of consensus. Rest in peace, Theresa Marie." 4-1-05

REDUCE ABORTIONS IN N.Y.S. BY 80 AN HOUR

In a recent fund-raising letter from the NY chapter of Republicans for Choice came this: "We have the opportunity right here in NYS to significantly reduce the number of abortions – as many as 1,917 per day and 80 abortions an hour." But "unless we act immediately, to use our voices, as pro-choice Republicans from across NYS who support safe access to reproductive health care, political posturing and half-truths will once again trump our right. The Unintended Pregnancy Act, which currently sits before the NYS Senate Health Committee, would significantly increase women's access to Emergency Contraception." This bill would allow pharmacists to dispense EC. Recall that the FDA refused to allow this drug to go over the counter despite the recommendations of two of its own panels. Half of all women seeking this drug do so on nights and weekends when health care facilities are generally closed. Timing is critical with EC. If a condom breaks on a Friday night on a long holiday weekend, waiting until Tuesday for EC will be too late for it to be effective.

RIGHT-TO-LIFERS SHOULD BE OUR BIGGEST SUPPORTERS

From the Planned Parenthood of South Central NY fund-raising letter 3/05 "Planned Parenthood services prevent unintended pregnancy and abortion.

Not only that, we also prevent STDs, cancer, and risky behaviors. We are also instrumental in preventing teenagers from dropping out of school, families from going on welfare, and long hospital stays for serious illnesses. In fact, those persons who are opposed to abortion should be PP's biggest supporters. *We do more to avert the need for abortion than any other organization, by providing affordable, accessible contraception and medically accurate, age-appropriate sexuality education.*

PHARMACISTS WHO WON'T

According to a New York Times editorial there are "scattered reports" about the increasing number of pharmacists who for moral or religious reasons refuse to fill prescriptions for contraceptives or 'morning-after' pills. Last year there were as many as 180 such incidents in a six-month period. And organized antiabortion pharmacists are pressing both professional organizations and state legislatures to adopt 'conscience clauses' supporting "their right to refuse or even refer a customer to another pharmacist." Several states have already enacted such laws and, in ten others, legislators are pushing for them. While attempts to find a compromise between a pharmacist's conscience and the valid needs of a patient/customer may seem admirable, what about those pharmacists who are "so certain of their moral high ground that they berate, belittle or lecture their customers?" And what of women in rural areas where there may not be another pharmacy nearby, so that customers "may go without the medication or waste time finding another pharmacy," especially important with emergency contraception which must be taken within 72 hours of rape, incest or unprotected intercourse.

The editorialist points out that "pharmacists who refuse to fill an E.C. prescriptions are inadvertently strengthening the case for making them available over-the-counter." Wal-Mart refuses to stock E.C. pills.

New York Times, 4-3-05

KILLER PLEADS GUILTY TO BOMBINGS AT OLYMPICS & CLINIC

Eric Rudolph, 38, pleaded guilty to a two-year series of bombings that killed two and wounded more than 120. By this plea, Rudolph will receive four consecutive life sentences, in lieu of the death penalty.

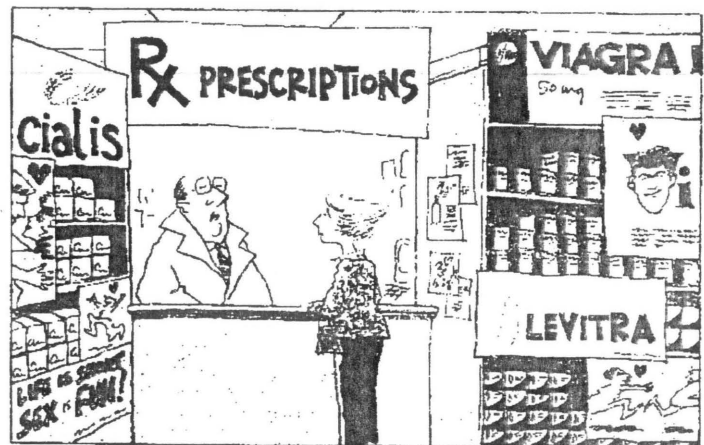
The bombings began in 1996 when "nails and screws exploded through a crowd at the Olympic Park in Atlanta, killing Alice Hawthorne and wounding 11 others. In 1997, the next target of this former army explosives expert, was an Atlanta office building housing an abortion clinic where six were wounded. In the same year a "nail laden device was exploded at an Atlanta night club with a mostly gay and lesbian clientele." One year later, in January, a Birmingham, Ala., abortion clinic was bombed, killing an off-duty policeman and maiming a nurse, Emily Lyons, "who lost an eye and nearly her life."

While Rudolph had been "stone-faced" as he answered questions in Atlanta, he "winked towards prosecutors as he entered the Birmingham court, said the government could 'just barely' prove its case, and admitted guilt with a hint of pride in his voice. Lyons wept and said she was almost physically ill as she watched in court from her front-row seat."

The accused had hidden in the mountains of North Carolina for more than five years where he had stashed "hundreds of pounds of explosives." Following his capture, he provided attorneys with an eleven-page manifesto expressing remorse only for the deaths of innocent civilians. He attempted to justify the killings "because I believe abortion is murder, I also believe that force is justified...in an attempt to stop it, whether these agents of the government [clinic security guard] are armed or otherwise they are legitimate targets in the war to end this holocaust." He added that "every employee is a knowing participant in this gruesome trade."

Rudolph denied "any allegiance to the racist, anti-Semitic, anti-gay Christian Identity movement, saying he attended the church for about six months in the early 1980s only because the father of a woman he was dating went there."

Cortland Standard, 4-13-05, 4-14-05



"I'M SORRY, LADY, I'M MORALLY OPPOSED TO BIRTH CONTROL PILLS."

Tony Auth

The Philadelphia Inquirer

THANKS TO

Thanks to all of those who responded generously to our annual appeal in the February newsletter. And thanks for your kind words that accompanied your donations – those are the "paychecks" for our volunteers.

To the editors, we salute you!

To the Mail party, we love ya!

To our readers, talk to a friend or neighbor about an article in this newsletter. Don't be shy; we are the majority.

CALENDAR

May 17, School Board elections

August 26, Women's Equity Day,

anniversary of the right to vote 1920

September 1, Choice newsletter mailed

November 1, Choice newsletter mailed

November 8, Local elections

Newsletter/Membership Form

**Mail Checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
PO Box 385 * Cortland, NY 13045**

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

ProChoice Friend - Name and Address _____

Contributions \$50 \$25 \$20 \$10 Other

Please note that contributions are not tax deductible.

VOTE AND THE CHOICE IS YOURS

November 8, 2005

Polls Open: 6:00AM to 9:00PM

When You Vote, Remember: People Use Local Elections as a Step to Higher Offices.

Choice

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CORTLAND PROGRESSIVES FOR REFORM — CPR

There's a group in town attempting to (re)frame issues after this past presidential election. Below are drafts (written by our own *Choice* members) to be offered to the larger group for approval on issues important to *Choice* newsletter readers:

CPR Position Statement on a Woman's Right to Abortion

CPR supports full reproductive services and all pregnancy options including abortion. But we also believe that prevention rather than punishment is the key to reducing the need for abortions.

Half of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended, far more than in any other developed countries. One in three US women will have an abortion in her lifetime.

Like the majority of people in this country, we do not take abortion lightly; we anguish with the moral decision women face regarding an unintended pregnancy. We recognize that the need to make the abortion decision results from either violence against women in the form of rape or incest or from a failure — failure of knowledge, failure of partner communications and/or a failure of birth control.

We take the position that every woman is capable of being her own moral agent and that government has no right to legislate or mandate those decisions for her. Any attempt by government to abridge or prohibit a woman's rights to contraception, abortion or accurate reproductive information represents not only a denial of her civil liberties and her right to privacy as guaranteed by the Constitution, but also infringes upon her religious freedom. Making abortion illegal will not decrease the number of abortions in this country; it will simply take them to the back alley again.

We strongly advocate for the prevention of unintended pregnancies by improving access to contraception and emergency contraception and by supporting effective *abstinence-plus* sex education in our schools. The goal is that every child born would be wanted, loved and fully nurtured by family and society.

The CPR Case for Sex Education in our Schools

CPR supports comprehensive, medically accurate, age-appropriate sex education curricula in our schools. We want curricula that have been scientifically validated to reduce the incidence of AIDS, STD, and pregnancy among teens. This comprehensive sex education instructs on both abstinence and birth control; it is also known as *abstinence-plus* sex education. There is evidence that this sex education does not cause teens to become sexually active at earlier ages or increase sexual activity rates. It does teach our children to be responsible decision makers through knowledge of the consequences of their actions.

We do not support the federally funded (\$1 billion) *abstinence-only until marriage* promotion. A 2004 Congressional report on this program found that 80% of the curricula that was used contained false, misleading or distorted information. *Abstinence until marriage* curricula provide no information on birth control or disease prevention. Moreover there is no credible evidence that *abstinence-only until marriage* delays sex or reduces teen pregnancy.

We do support the Healthy Teens Act, introduced with bi-partisan sponsorship in the NYS Legislature last year. This act provides schools and community organizations with effective, age-appropriate, and medically accurate sex education programs for young people.

MEDICALLY ACCURATE SEX ED WORKS

In Cortland, ZAP, the award winning prevention program assisted in reducing teen pregnancy by one-third between 1991 and 2000. ZAP educated county health teachers with sex ed curricula that had proven track records for reducing sexual activity and increasing contraceptive use.

Now the N.Y. Civil Liberties Union is staging a campaign to call on all school superintendents to support comprehensive, age-appropriate, medically accurate sex ed. We encourage you to call or write of your support to your local superintendent and health teachers. Ask them to support real sex education. For more information go to "the issue" at www.getthefacts.org

THE SUPREME COURT NOMINEE, WOMEN, SEX AND ROE

The selection of Harriet Miers by the Bush administration seems a choice made from weakness and crisis. The growing public opposition to the war in Iraq, the incompetence and indifference displayed by the White House in its response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster, the rising gasoline prices, the all time low presidential ratings, the investigation of Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's financial matters and the indictments of House Majority Leader Tom DeLay all contribute to the crisis.

The right wing gave its all to elect anti-choice presidents in 1980, 1984 and 1988, and all they got were thirty-three Supreme Court majority decisions to uphold Roe. From the 10-06-05 NYT editorial "...try to imagine a reverse situation in which President Bill Clinton opens up the newspaper to discover that one of his two appointments to the court has voted to overturn the constitutional right to privacy and abortion. There's a reason this is hard to imagine: it borders on the preposterous."

A NYT's article (10-6-05) notes that James Dobson, head of Focus on the Family, and one of the most influential fundamentalist ministers, was satisfied with Miers's views after a discussion with Karl Rove. He refused, however, to say what Rove had told him, telling his audience, "'You will have to trust me on this one', (if I'm wrong) '...the blood of those babies'" - aborted fetuses - "'will be on my hands to some degree'."

In other words, the unelected televangelist was privy to information that the Bush administration intended to deny the Senate Judiciary Committee during hearings on the Miers nomination. After public outcry, Dodson claims that his 10-16-05 FOF program lays out this insider information.

In the same NYT's article, Gary Bauer, president of the Christian conservative group American Values, remained unconvinced about Ms. Miers. He said, "'As of today, not one friend, associate, co-worker or White House official is able to produce one sentence she has written or spoken in criticism of Roe v. Wade,' "he wrote in an e-mail newsletter to supporters." "Her apparent silence is troubling - at least to me."

Another source pointed out that several years ago the American Bar Association reaffirmed its support for abortion rights for women. Harriet Miers sponsored a resolution calling for a referendum vote, which probably would have made it more difficult for it to have passed. Most representatives of the right-wing anti-abortion, anti-tax and anti-gay lobbies were hostile, with the exception of a few prominent Christian fundamentalist preachers who said they had received direct assurances from the White House that Miers was a certain vote on the high court for their positions on social issues.

Continuing, the item noted that "The White House has already made it clear that it will not release any documents on which Miers worked during her five years as staff secretary, deputy chief of staff and counsel to the president. And Miers will follow the example of John Roberts in refusing to answer direct questions about her views on the repeal of the *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion as well as other contentious social issues." www.wsws.org 10-16-05

One Republican, Senator Sam Brownback of Kansas, a strong anti-abortion conservative, revealed on the CBS program *Face the Nation* (10-09-05) that the real reason for the distress

on the far right with the Miers nomination is that they had hoped for an explicitly anti-abortion nominee to provoke Senate Democrats, who have threatened a filibuster. This would give the Republicans, who hold a 55-45 majority in the Senate, the opportunity to change the rules to ban filibusters of all nominations, a procedure given the title of "the nuclear option" by Trent Lott.

"'I believe we could have overcome that filibuster,'" Brownback said. "'It would have required a bruising fight, changing the rules, but I think we're at a point in time where we should have that discussion and debate.'" In other words, the latest Supreme Court nomination was to have been an anti-choice vote to overturn Roe and to end the last procedural restraint on the exercise of power by the Republican Party which now controls all three branches of government.

WALL STREET JOURNAL editorial by right wing John Fund 10-17-05

"On Oct. 3, the day the Miers nomination was announced, Mr. Dobson and other religious conservatives held a conference call to discuss the nomination. One of the people on the call took extensive notes, which I have obtained. According to the notes, two of Ms. Miers's close friends—both sitting judges—said during the call that she would vote to overturn *Roe*.

"The call was moderated by the Rev. Donald Wildmon of the American Family Association. Participating were 13 members of the executive committee of the Arlington Group, an umbrella alliance of 60 religious conservative groups, including Gary Bauer of American Values, Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention, Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council, Paul Weyrich of the Free Congress Foundation and the Rev. Bill Owens, a black minister. Also on the call were Justice Nathan Hecht of the Texas Supreme Court and Judge Ed Kinkeade, a Dallas-based federal trial judge....

"Should she survive the hearings, liberal groups may demand that Democrats filibuster her. Republican senators, already hesitant to back Ms. Miers after heavy blowback from their conservative base, would likely lack the will to trigger the so-called nuclear option.

"The nomination is in real trouble," one GOP senator told me. "Not one senator wants to go through the agony of those hearings, even those who want to vote for her." Even if Ms. Miers avoids a filibuster, it's possible Democrats would join with dissident Republicans to defeat her outright....

"If Ms. Miers is confirmed, it will reinforce the popular belief that the Supreme Court is more about political outcomes than the rule of law."

EXERPT FROM SPEECH BY GRANNY D

Recall the Doris Haddock, who at age 90, completed a 14-month trek across our country to draw attention to the need for national campaign finance reform. Now at age 95, she continues her wise reflections on our culture. She is speaking of the wrath that the Clintons attracted from the religious right.

"What attracted such hatred? It was their freedom, their sense of equality, and their joys. Here it is: those in the clan of authority are not given the privilege—the natural right—of living their own lives. They do as they are told, say and think what they are told. Smothered is their curiosity and their healthy

THE QUOTABLE "RIGHT"

According to the *Christian Coalition Leadership Manual*:

The Christian Coalition's budget for 1993 is \$12 million.

In the 1992 national elections the Coalition distributed 40 million voters guides—41% of the Congressional candidates who received a "100% rating" from the Coalition's "Voters Guide" won.

"It is the Christian's duty to submit to the authority of the spiritual leaders who have been placed in positions of authority over them, just as it is the Christian's duty to submit to the authority of the husband and father in the family."

According to the Christian Coalition: "For issues that concern pro-family Catholics and Evangelicals—abortion, drugs, education—the future lies at the state and local level. A decade from now, the organizations that mobilize voters and activists in the counties and precincts of America will control the political agenda."

According to Pat Robertson: "The feminist agenda is not about equal rights for women. It is about a socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians."

Ralph Reed, Executive Director of the Christian Coalition on their voter mobilization program: "I want to be invisible. I do guerilla warfare. I paint my face and travel at night. You don't know it's over until you're in a body bag. You don't know until election night."

SO, HOW DO WE ADDRESS THIS? How do we monitor their influence & message?

AS A FIRST STEP, there have been several coalitions formed around the state that are dealing with the implications of the "religious right". Locally, there is the newly formed Coalition for Freedom. Their stated mission:
The Coalition for Freedom is committed to sharing information, education and taking action against the political and social agenda of the 'religious right' and other groups that threaten and infringe upon individual freedoms.

For more information about the Coalition for Freedom, please contact Planned Parenthood Center of Syracuse, 1120 E. Genesee St., Syracuse, NY 13210 (315) 475-5540; the Syracuse Peace Council, 924 Burnet Ave., Syracuse, NY 133203, (315) 472-5478; or The Stonewall Committee, 246 E. Water St., Syracuse, NY 13202.

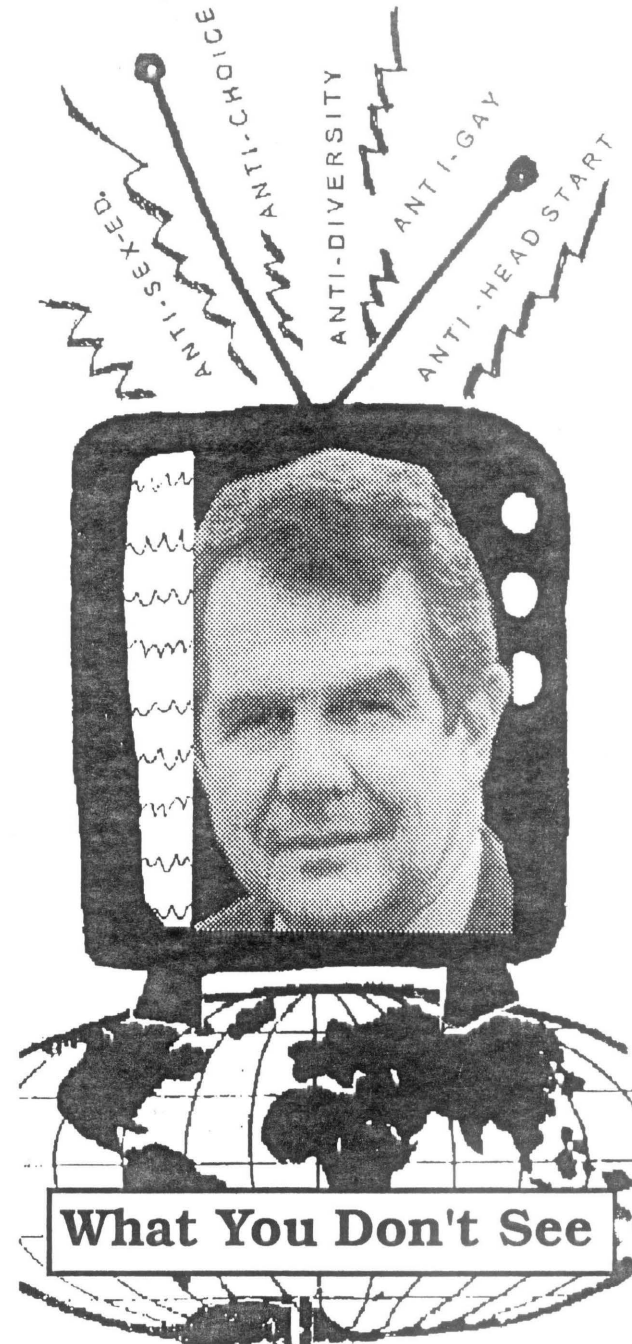
There are other organizations on a national level that monitor the current situation and/or produce useful materials: Institute for First Amendment Studies, PO Box 589, Great Barrington, MA, 01230 (413) 274-3786; Americans United for Separation of Church and State, 8120 Fenton St., Silver Spring, MD 20910 (410) 589-3707; Center for Democratic Renewal, PO Box 50469, Atlanta, GA 30310 (404) 221-0025; The Southern Poverty Law Center, PO Box 548, Montgomery, AL, 36177-9621.

For more information about which candidates have gotten the Right-to Life endorsement (a big hint that this candidate might be a "stealth" candidate), contact the CNY Coalition for Choice, PO Box 761, DeWitt, NY 13214.

FURTHERMORE—YOU COULD:

- Know your candidates
- Get involved, become part of the local network
- Add your name to local mailing lists
- Contribute time to special efforts
- Write letters, inform others

The Religious Right:



About the "Religious Right"

Exposing the Christian Coalition's Agenda for U.S. Education and Politics

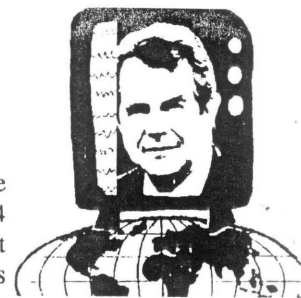
7 THE TERM "RELIGIOUS RIGHT" is as much an oxy-moron as "moral majority." Lead by such hateful bigots as Pat Robertson, the "religious right" preaches and insists upon narrow, racist, sexist and homophobic values. Claiming to be based in loving Christianity, the "religious right" does not actually speak for most people who consider themselves religious; nor does it have the corner on right. Founded by Pat Robertson in 1989, The Christian Coalition has about 800 chapters and 400,000 members. They may reach their goal of 1,500 chapters and 800,000 members by the end of 1993. The Christian Coalition is well organized by state, and within the states, by precincts. They have a full-time staff in 20 states and claim to have 50,000 precinct leaders and 25,000 church liaison leaders.

The "religious right" also organizes on a local level to run anti-choice, anti-sex education, anti-inclusive candidates for

school board and other races where there is usually low voter turn out and the candidate can run without being pressed on the issues. For example, in the Spring of 1993, the Christian Coalition formed an alliance with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, in the New York City school board elections—distributing 600,000 voter guides, primarily through churches. These types of candidates have come to be known as "stealth candidates"; invisible to most people, and extremely dangerous to the system. You may recall the recent legislative battles over gay and lesbian rights in Oregon and Colorado—the primary work of the homophobic agenda was done by organizers of the "religious right," who were sent to these states specifically to organize this referendum on civil rights. These are just a couple of examples of the infiltration of such hate groups—their focused and committed minority works diligently for their cause and, as a result, supports their candidates with time and money.

For example, after matching grants were added to raised

funds, Pat Robertson lost the 1988 Presidential bid with \$10.4 million dollars with which to start his Christian media empire. This empire includes a slick 24 hour



cable TV channel, The Family Channel, broadcast on almost 10,000 cable systems and reaching 55 million homes. Additionally, Robertson runs Standard News, a secular news bureau working in tandem with Reuters, aired on more than 400 radio stations.

Combine this money and influence with the national debate over "family values," the Arthur DeMoss anti-choice TV commercials (which run locally on WIXT 9 and WSTM 3), and a few popular, wealthy bible banging televangelists, and you get a media flooded with the message of the "religious right."

Their focused and committed minority works diligently for their cause

Key for the Free Congress Foundation—Christian Coalition: Selected Structural Relationships

(1) OR/CDC has office space in Free Congress Fdn. and works in coalition with the Christian Coalition.

(2) Michael Schwartz served as Public Affairs Director for the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights until 1986 when he went to work for the Free Congress Foundation. He has spoken at meetings of Tom Monaghan's Legatus organization.

(3) Dianna Weyrich, Paul W.'s daughter attended Christendom College. Vernon Walters, former Dep. Dir. for Operations of the CIA is a member of the Christendom Board of Directors. Warren Carol, the founder, member of the Board of Directors and Pres. of Christendom, is a former CIA operative who has worked closely with Free Congress Foundation publishing an anti-communist journal.

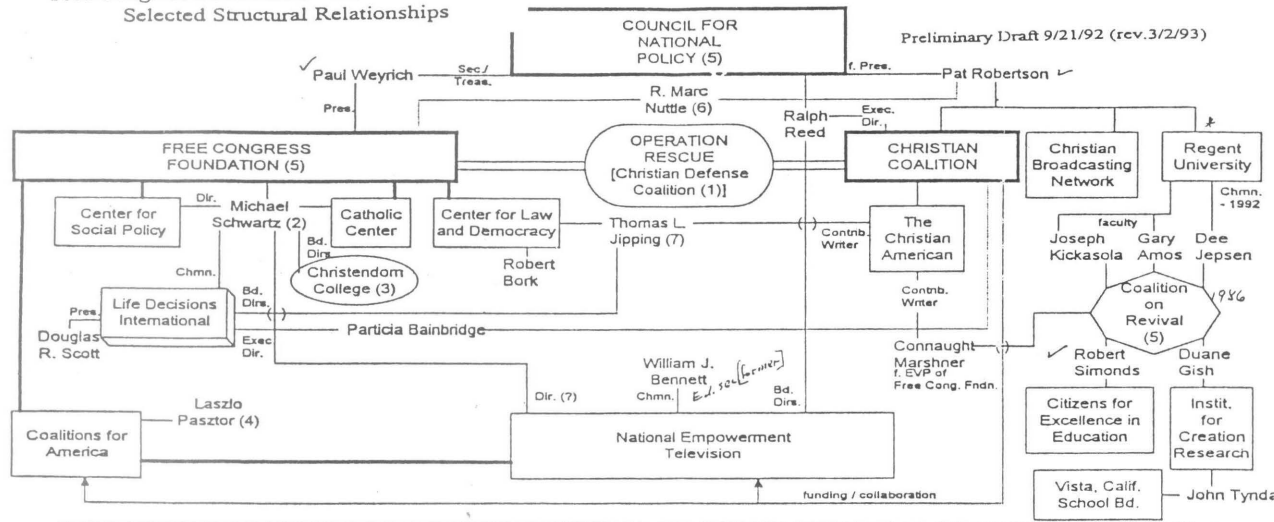
(4) See generally, Russ Bellant, *The Coors Connection*, South End Press (Boston: 1991), discusses the Coors-funded Heritage Foundation, Free Congress Foundation [and Laszlo Pasztor], and the Council for National Policy. On Laszlo Pasztor and RHG(N)C see also: Russ Bellant, *Old Nazis, the New Right and the Republican Party*, South End Press (Boston:1991).

(5) On COR see Fred Clarkson, "Hard COR" (Church & State, 1991); Fred Clarkson, "The Making of a Christian Police State" (*The Freedom Writer*, September 1991, Great Barrington, MA); Sara Diamond, *Spiritual Warfare* (Southend Press, Boston: 1989).

(6) Nuttle in 1984 was a national field director for FCF. By 1987 he became top political strategist for Pat Robertson. By 1990 he served as the Executive Director of the Republican National Campaign Committee. In the Summer-Fall of 1991 Weyrich (with additional funds from the National Endowment for Democracy) paid for Nuttle to travel to the Ukraine, Russia and Eastern Europe to conduct political training seminars.

(7) Thomas Jipping is VP for Policy at Free Congress Fdn., Director of the Center for Law and Democracy and a contributing editor of the Christian Coalition's journal, *The Christian American*. Robert Bork is now working with the Center for Law and Democracy's Judicial Selection Monitoring Project.

Free Congress Foundation - Christian Coalition: Selected Structural Relationships



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skepticism, and also their imagination, joy, freedom, and lust for life itself. When they see others actually living lives, they react with anger, as if someone had cut to the front of a line that, for them, never moves.

What is the proof of this theory? Those enthralled to authority, cowering under it, lose sight of their own lives. They will venerate above all else the symbol of the yet unruined potential of life: the curled-up unborn. The authority clan will have the image of an unborn baby as its flag, and they will claim to honor and defend innocent life, but that will be a great lie to themselves. For they will not be the ones to demand DNA testing of all prisoners on death row; they will not be the ones to demand health insurance for all children, or better nutrition in all schools, or peaceful alternatives to international conflicts. They will be the ones to rail against these things, for the authority clan parades itself as pro-life while it is truly more like a cult of death. Having died themselves, strangled by authority and fear, they cannot wish happy lives for others—they cling only to that magic symbol of what might have been. They relate to the unborn baby selfishly; it is themselves: unborn, un-lived, still hoping for a life.

... The people we are dealing with today, who are so far to the right of traditional conservatives that it is unfair to call them that at all, do not believe that our government is our campfire of community. They would replace it with a church, a strict family, and, as they have shown us so many times in history, even with a dictatorship that derives from imagined divine powers, and with a reign of brutal authority that sanctions criminal aggressions on other nations, torture, and the suspension of civil liberties. How many times have we seen this happen abroad, and how many times have we wondered if we would have the courage and the character to act up if it happened here—if our own army was turned into a police force against us?

... When people begin to really live their lives, the black and white certainties do not turn to shades of gray, but to the million-jeweled hues of a morning's dew. That sparkle is the reality of life revealed. Life is about living, and about helping other real people get through this world with a minimum of pain and a maximum of human dignity." Concord, Ma. October 6, 2005

BUSH ON SOCIAL SECURITY:

Women in audience: "I don't really understand. How is the new plan going to fix that problem?"

[Verbatim response recorded 2/4/05 in Tampa Florida:]

President Bush: "Because the — all which is on the table, begins to address the big cost drivers. For example, how benefits are calculated, for example, is on the table. Whether or not benefits rise based upon wage increases or price increases. There's a series of parts of the formula that are being considered. And when you couple that, those different cost drivers, affecting those — changing those with personal accounts, the idea is to get what has been promised more likely to be — or closer delivered to that has been promised. Does that make any sense to you? It's kind of muddled.....Look, there's a series of things that cause the — like, for example, benefits are calculated based upon the increase of wages, as opposed to the increase of prices. Some have suggested that we calculate — the benefits will rise based upon inflation, as opposed to wage increases. There is a reform that would help solve the red if that were put into effect. In other words, how fast benefits grow, how fast the promised benefits grow, if those — if that growth is affected, will help on the red."

HARRIET MIERS ON BUSH:

"The President is the most brilliant man I have ever met."
www.WSWS.org

TWENTY TWO

NOW commended the 22 senators who stood for women's rights and voted against John Roberts for Chief Justice to the Supreme Court. Their courage was "overshadowed by the fall-in-line politics" of the other senators who are beholden to "Karl Rove and Pat Robertson rather than women's rights and civil rights."

NOW On line Newsletter 9/29/05

NARAL said that Roberts advocated that Roe v. Wade be overturned. He thought it wrongly decided. He sided with clinic blockaders, including Operation Rescue. Although he is strongly supported by the radical right, he is out of step with 65% of Americans who support choice.

Cheryl Sullenger of Operation Rescue has said that, "Roberts has shown strong conservative credentials with indications he will not uphold Roe v. Wade." And Joe Scheidler of the Pro-Life Action League commented that Roberts is "exactly the kind of judge I want to appear before when I bring my case to the Supreme Court." NARAL PRO CHOICE AMERICA 9-28-05

HISTORY — From an old news clip from the Nixon days before Roe v. Wade

Senator S. Black, Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black's son led the New Mexico Senate in passing one of the most liberal abortion laws in the nation. The measure did not require residency, husband consent or approval of a 3-doctor panel as did the 1967 Colorado law that was the first major reform in a century. Nor did it require the District Attorney to approve abortion in the case of rape or incest. Black noted that restrictions like these were driving N.M. women to butcher shops in Juarez. NYT, date unknown

Ed Note: Some have argued (Ruth Bader Ginsberg among them) that the states were in the process of changing abortion law and that Roe was too much too soon. Thus, it remains unsettled and contentious. Katha Pollitt in the Nation (7-14-05) says that, "Democratic Party insiders quietly wonder if abandoning abortion rights would win back white Catholics and evangelicals. A chorus of pundits—among them David Brooks in the New York Times and the Washington Post's Benjamin Wittes writing in The Atlantic—argues that Roe's unforeseen consequences exact too high a price: on democracy, on public discourse, even, paradoxically, on abortion."

Throwing Roe back to the 50 state legislatures would certainly be contentious as well. The Center for Reproductive Rights says that abortion rights would be at immediate high risk in twenty-one states, moderate risk in nine and "secure" in only twenty.

PHARMACIST REFUSAL

Commenting on proposed pharmacist refusal legislation at a House Committee Hearing, NOW President Gandy testified that "The issue before you today offers a choice between protecting women's access to basic health care or permitting pharmacists to impose their personal beliefs on their customers."

A witness who testified that she had been denied her legal prescription by her pharmacist was told by Reps. King (R-Iowa)

and Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo) that her "experience was a minor inconvenience" compared to the pharmacist's 'conscience' and that she had no 'right' to her prescription."

National NOW Times, Summer/Fall '05

LETTERS TO THE NY TIMES EDITOR

Following publication of an article entitled "Under the Din of Abortion: an Experience Quietly Shared" the paper printed several revealing letters in response.

Excerpts:

"Reasonable people from all walks of life can come to very different conclusions about the necessity and morality of abortion, and thus it is in our best interest to leave the decision to a woman, her doctor, her family, and her God." Honolulu

"Many of the women (cited in the article) decided for their own various needs and reasons to have an abortion...whatever their condition, they were in need. Thanks to the brave doctors and abortion clinic staff members for not abandoning them. They are American heroes." Cummaquid, Massachusetts

"As mentioned in the article, the majority of women who get abortions are young, poor and minorities. It is no coincidence that these same demographic groups are also less likely to have access to sex education and contraception that can prevent unwanted pregnancies in the first place.... Every law restricting women's reproductive rights — whether in the form of parental notification, limiting access to emergency contraception or laws that make it difficult to open clinics — is most harmful to those women who have already been failed by society." Gainesville, Florida

"You point out the travesty of religion in the abortion issue. Baptists, Catholics, atheists, agnostics, and other denominations of women are among those who end up on the table in stirrups, some of them crying but none of them willing to give up the safe medical option of ending a pregnancy that would destroy their lives or produce an unwanted —another unwanted—child. Women will jeopardize their lives to end an unwanted, ill- timed pregnancy. Civilized societies recognize this abortion as safe medical procedure during the first trimester and will support laws making abortion a safe medical procedure during the first trimester.... Small-minded men in positions of temporary power should not be able to outlaw this need." Portola Valley, California.

"Your article assumes that every woman having an abortion feels guilt and sorrow. I felt only tremendous relief and joy at not

having to have a child when I wasn't ready... My life would have been ruined. I would have been an abusive, resentful mother. I would never have had a career and most important, my two beautiful children came when we were ready for them. They were raised in a loving family.... Abortion is not a life-taker; it is a life-saver." Forest Hills, NY

QUICKIE NEWS SUMMARIES

VATICAN TO DRIVE GAY PRIESTS OUT OF US

SEMINARIES Gay priests say they are being scapegoated for crimes committed by pedophiles and covered up by bishops who never faced any discipline. The interviews made clear that they now had the strong sense of being persecuted by their own church.

9/23/05 NYT

WOOD QUILTS OVER ABORTION POLITICS "The director of the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Women's Health resigned yesterday to protest the agency's decision last week to further delay approving over-the-counter sales of the morning-after pill. 'I feel very strongly that this shouldn't be about abortion politics,' the director, Dr. Susan F. Wood, who is an assistant

F.D.A. commissioner, said in a telephone interview. 'This is a way to prevent unwanted pregnancy and thereby prevent abortion. This should be something that we should all agree on.'" 9/1/05 NYT
WASHINGTON POST — ABC NEWS POLL

National polls indicate that 65% of the public supports Roe v. Wade. Eight in ten Democrats, two-thirds of independents, and half of Republicans want to see Roe v. Wade upheld in the Supreme Court. NARAL Pro Choice America (Prochoice Action) 8-17-05
SEN. CLINTON ON MIDDLE GROUND

"...Clinton's January speech seeking "common ground" with proliferators on reducing pregnancies seemed intended to distance her from beleaguered prochoice leaders. She might, for instance, have looked for ways to deliver her message with new NARAL president Nancy Keenan, who's been sounding a similar message. Instead, Clinton's speech enables the right to paint prochoice groups as pro-abortion." The Nation 5-26-05



THANKS TO

The motley mailing party crew—such fun and good food.
\$\$Contributors, thanks always.

Printers—always perfect.

CALENDAR

November 8 Election Day — County and City races
January 2006 One and Only Annual Fundraising Edition of Choice Newsletter
January 22, 2006 33rd Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade
May 2006 Choice Newsletter
September 2006 Choice Newsletter
November 2006 Choice Newsletter Important State and National Election Edition

Newsletter/MembershipForm

Mail Checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
PO Box 385 * Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

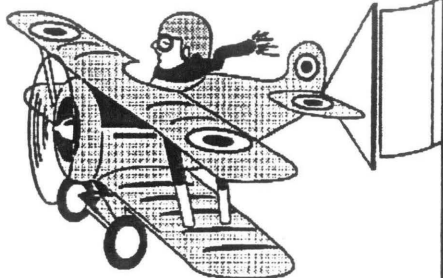
Address _____

Phone _____

ProChoice Friend - Name and Address _____

Contributions \$50 \$25 \$20 \$10 Other

Please note that contributions are not tax deductible.



JANUARY IS ANNUAL FUNDRAISING MONTH

January 22, 2006 Happy Roe V. Wade
May This Not Be Your Last

Choice

WHAT HAPPENED TO CHOICE IN 2005?

1. Emergency Contraception

At the state level Governor Pataki, attempting to position himself for a national run for president, vetoed the bill that made it through the normally anti-choice NY Senate. The bill would have allowed pharmacists to provide EC over the counter. The Federal Drug Administration broke its commitment to provide a decision on this same issue in September. Susan Woods, FDA's women's health chief, quit in protest. Faulty FDA procedures on EC are now under scrutiny. Informed Choice Newsletter www.pprsr.org

2. The Supreme Court Hangs in Balance

SC Chief William Rehnquist died and Sandra Day O'Connor, who held down the center on the court, resigned. John Roberts, whose wife does pro-bono legal work for the Feminists for Life, replaced Rehnquist. Harriet Myers and then Samuel Alito were nominated to replace O'Connor. Myers was not right for the Right; they raised a stink and she withdrew. See Alito information below.

3. Family Planning Access

The December 2005 Budget reconciliation bill made it harder for poor women to get family planning services on Medicaid. Senator Clinton stated that this would increase the number of abortions in this country.

4. Access to Abortion, EC and the Birth Control Pill Threatened

Plenty of state laws limit access to abortion with parental consent laws, mandated waiting periods and scripted counseling requirements. Now Pharmacists for Life at several Target and WalMart stores deny women EC prescriptions based on the pharmacists' "conscience" or corporate policy. Some pharmacists are even denying women birth control pills. *NARAL website*

5. Abstinence Only

One billion federal dollars have gone to abstinence-till-marriage sex ed.

These programs have not proven to be effective, are often religiously-based sex education and they do not include discussions of birth control or AIDS/STD prevention.

6. International Global Gag Rule

International family planning agencies that receive aid from the US are denied funding if they provide: a.) abortion services for other than rape, incest or life threatening cases, or b.) counseling services related to unwanted pregnancy options, or c.) lobbying for legalized abortion laws, even if they use their own funds for these activities. Not only funding, but technical assistance and US donated contraceptives are lost if they do not comply with this Gag Rule. Thirty African countries were thus denied access to contraceptives and condoms. www.publiceye.org

7. Domestic Gag Rule

The Weldon Amendment was added to the Federal budget during the spring session of Congress. State and local governments can lose their federal funding if they attempt to require health care institutions to provide, pay or make referrals for abortion. (Ed note: Abortion is still legal in the US and giving women information on abortion is part of physician-required informed consent.) Resist www.resistinc.org

WHAT DO WE HAVE AFTER FIVE YEARS OF GEORGE W. BUSH?

1. The Partial Birth Abortion Law signed into law. (Declared unconstitutional)

2. Politics trumping science with the FDA not approving over-the-counter use of Emergency Contraception.

3. Funding increased for "faith-based" anti-choice crisis pregnancy centers.

4. One billion dollars granted to ineffective and unproven "abstinence-till-marriage" sex education programs.

Jan 2006
Volume 15
Number 1

5. For the last five years, the U.S. has refused to release \$34 million to United Nations Population Fund to be used in the poorest countries for family planning services.

JUDIE BROWN CALLS FOR BISHOPS TO REPRIMAND ELECTED WOMEN

Judie Brown, the president of the American Life League, called upon Catholic bishops to reprimand five prominent Catholic women — US Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, US Reps. Nancy Pelosi of California and Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, and Colorado state senator Joan FitzGerald — who were participating in an 10-17-05 fundraiser for Emily's List, an organization that raises funds for political candidates who support legal abortion.

“‘These women, who claim to be Catholic, all adamantly defy the Church’,” Brown noted. “‘It would be my hope that each of their bishops contacts them as soon as possible to remind them it is impossible to be Catholic and pro-abortion’.”

www.CWNews.com (Catholic World)



HOWARD ZINN AND THE SUPREME COURT

A recent article by Howard Zinn discussed the importance of grass roots organizing as opposed to thinking that the Supreme Court will take care of us. Excerpts follow:

It would be naive to depend on the Supreme Court to defend the rights of poor people, women, people of color, dissenters of all kinds. Those rights only come alive when citizens organize, protest, demonstrate, strike, boycott, rebel, and violate the law in order to uphold justice....

The distinction between law and justice is ignored by all those Senators--Democrats and Republicans—who solemnly invoke as their highest concern “‘the rule of law’.” The law can be just; it can be unjust....

The right of a woman to an abortion did not depend on the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*. It was won before that decision, all over the country, by grassroots agitation that forced states to recognize the right. If the American people, who by a great majority favor that right, insist on it, act on it, no Supreme Court decision can take it away. *The Progressive* 11-05

REJOICE — SOME GOOD STUFF

A. Election reform

The requirement of a paper trail for election machines won in 19 states in 2005. Now 27 states have that requirement. Also progressive public election finance reform passed in Connecticut.

B. The “nuclear option” to end filibustering so far was not allowed in Congress as right wing ideologues attempt to pack the court with ideologues.

C. Under Suspicion — Tom DeLay, Dr. Frist, Recipients of Abramoff's donations, Rove

D. Indicted — Duke Cunningham, Abramoff

E. Social Security is still intact

F. Patriot Act only temporarily renewed.

G. Anti-torture legislation passed.

H. Murtha and Sheehan call for exit to war in Iraq.

I. No drilling for oil in the Arctic Wildlife Preserve

RESEARCH MISUSED FOR POLITICAL ENDS

In “The Uses and Abuses of Science in Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy Debates,”[<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/tgr/08/4/gr080401.html>] author Adam Sonfield calls for scientific standards to be reemphasized to ensure that evidence is not manipulated to promote a political position, particularly on issues such as sexual and reproductive health.

He illustrates the questionable use of science with competing studies on the effectiveness of virginity pledges. In March 2005, Brückner and Bearman reported in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Adolescent Medicine* that adolescents who had pledged to abstain from sex until marriage had rates of STIs as young adults, that were no different from rates among nonpledgers. These rates were based upon urine tests for STIs.

In June, a pair of conference papers from Rector and Johnson of the Heritage Foundation contradicted these findings. Their conclusions were based on self reports by the young adults about whether or not they had had an STI. In the ensuing public debate, the two studies were generally treated as equally trustworthy, but there were important differences in the studies' methods, as well as in the degree of external review they underwent.

David Landry, senior research associate at the Guttmacher Institute says that, “most researchers don't rely on self-reports to measure infection rates, since people may not know — or may be unwilling to admit — that they have an STI. This could be even more true for virginity pledgers. That's one reason why we have encouraged Rector and Johnson to submit their findings for peer review, so other experts can take a closer look at their methods and suggest ways they can improve their analyses.”

Sonfield explains that “external review and other protections built into the process of scientific publishing help ensure that research meets high methodological standards and reduces the chances that scientists' personal biases distort their findings.” Also, he emphasizes the importance to the scientific method of consensus-building—a value sometimes at odds with polarized political debates.

“Creating policy based on scientific evidence is a vast improvement over making important decisions based solely on ideology or emotion,” says Sonfield. “Yet journalists, advocates and policymakers all have an obligation to carefully review the evidence

they use, to avoid exaggerating and distorting the implications of research, and to trust the conclusions of individuals and organizations not because they have a particular ideology, but because they have a track record of responsible research and analysis."

Guttmacher Update 11-7-05

QUOTES FROM SUPREME COURT NOMINEE, SAMUAL ALITO

Alito, while working in the Solicitor General's office, recommended that the Reagan administration file an amicus brief in abortion cases that were to be heard by the Supreme Court at the time, in particular *Thornburgh v. ACOG*:

"...no one seriously believes that the Court is about to overrule *Roe v. Wade*... But the Court's decision to review these cases nevertheless may be a positive sign."

"What can be made of this opportunity to advance the goals of bringing about the eventual overruling of *Roe v. Wade* and, in the meantime, of mitigating its effects?"

"I find this approach preferable to a frontal assault on *Roe v. Wade*. It has most of the advantages of a brief devoted to the overruling of *Roe v. Wade*... At the same time, it is free of many of the disadvantages that would accompany a major effort to overturn *Roe*."

...And *this* is the man George Bush wants to replace moderate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on the Supreme Court. NARAL website



NEWS IN BRIEF

Darwin

In Kansas, a fiercely split State Board of Education voted 6-4 today to adopt new science standards that are the most far-reaching in the nation in requiring that Darwin's theory of evolution be challenged in the classroom.

Cortland Standard 11-9-05

Dover Pa.

All eight members up for re-election to the Pennsylvania school board that had been sued for introducing the teaching of intelligent design as an alternative to evolution in biology

class were swept out of office yesterday by a slate of challengers who campaigned against the intelligent design policy." NYT 11-9-05

Ed note: Since this election, Judge John E. Jones III handed down a definitive ruling that Intelligent Design was not science and should not be taught in Biology class.

Ayotte vs. Planned Parenthood of New England

The New Hampshire Parental Notification law squeaked through the state senate by just one vote. In 2004, the governor who had signed it into law was voted out of office. Governor Lynch, his pro-choice successor, took the extraordinary step of filing a brief with the court against his own state's law, saying it "undermines the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship" and "creates a chilling effect on access to health care in New Hampshire," putting the state's attorney general charged with defending the law in an awkward position. www.MSmagazine.com on line 11-26-05

URGING FDA to APPROVE EC

Rep. Slaughter has sent a letter signed by 62 bipartisan Members of Congress to the FDA supporting the over-the-counter sale of the emergency contraception (EC) drug known as Plan B. The letter expressed the Members' disappointment with the agency's recent refusal to offer a decision on Plan B despite its previous promises to do so. The FDA's failure to live up to its word comes nearly 20 months after its own Advisory Panel voiced overwhelming support for over-the-counter access to the drug. Experts estimate that wider access to EC would prevent 1.7 million unintended pregnancies and 800,000 abortions each year. Louise Line — online newsletter from Congressman Slaughter's office 10-20-05

GAO FINDS IRREGULARITIES IN FDA PROCEDURE FOR EC

A Government Accountability Office reports that the two committees — the Office of Drug Evaluation V, (over-the-counter drugs review) and the Office of Drug Evaluation III, (reproductive drugs) — reviewed whether Emergency Contraception (EC) should be available as an over-the-counter drug. Their joint advisory committee recommended "yes" by a margin of 23 to 4. Yet, Crawford, FDA head, signed off on a "not approved" letter claiming safety concerns for females under age 16.

Here are the problems the GAO reported: the Directors of the Offices of Drug Evaluation III and V, who would normally have been responsible for signing the EC action letter, disagreed with the decision, as did the Director of the Office of New Drugs and none would sign the not-approvable letter. Although e-mails and documents on this have been deleted, in possible violation of federal records laws, incidental evidence suggests that the decision to deny approval was made by upper management before viewing any data, possibly in December of 2003.

The "rejection of the application was 'novel' and was a significant departure from standard procedure," according to the GAO. "The FDA review staff pointed out to investigators that for other OTC switch applications, data for older adolescents was considered scientifically adequate representation of younger subjects, and the review process had never taken into account behavioral differences between the two groups."

Between 1994 and 2004, 23 similar applications were approved; only the EC application was rejected after receiving committee approval. "It was also the only one ... signed by the FDA director rather than a lower-ranking employee who actually reviewed the application. In the midst of the GAO investigation, Crawford resigned from his new post as FDA commissioner, saying only that it was time he 'step aside'."

www.wsws.org 11-26-05

FREAKONOMICS ON CRIME RATE DECREASE

Steven Levitt and Steven Dubner claim that the decrease in the crime rate was not due to more cops on the street, better policing, more prisons, surging economy, or the aging of drug dealers. Instead it is *Roe v Wade*. This analysis brought criticism from the left and the right.

Levitt argued that the prevention of unwanted births eliminates a pool of potential criminals. He used Ceausescu's 1966 ban of abortion in Romania to prove it. Their birth rate doubled in one year with the help of the Menstrual Police and the celibacy tax. In 1989 Ceausescu was ousted from office, in large measure by those un-aborted youth from the 60s and 70s, Levitt claims.

In the US the opposite happened. Rich and middle class women were able to avail themselves of illegal abortions before *Roe*. After, women seeking legal abortions were generally poor, unmarried or a teen, sometimes all three.

In the early 90s, the first cohort of children born after *Roe v Wade* reached their late teens and the crime rate took a dramatic dive, confounding statisticians who predicted an increasing crime wave. Five states had legalized abortion before *Roe*. Levitt saw that the crime rates in those states fell earlier than the other 45 states. Then Levitt correlated the states crime rates to the abortion rates. States with the highest abortion rates experienced the biggest drops in crime rates. No similar correlation existed before the late 1980s. In states with high abortion rates, the entire decline in crime was in the post-*Roe* cohort and not among older criminals.

Ed note: One question arises—did legal abortion simply replace illegal abortion? We are trying to research whether the birth rate declined that dramatically after *Roe*. Levitt does not address this fact in his book.

From an www.Amazon.com book review:

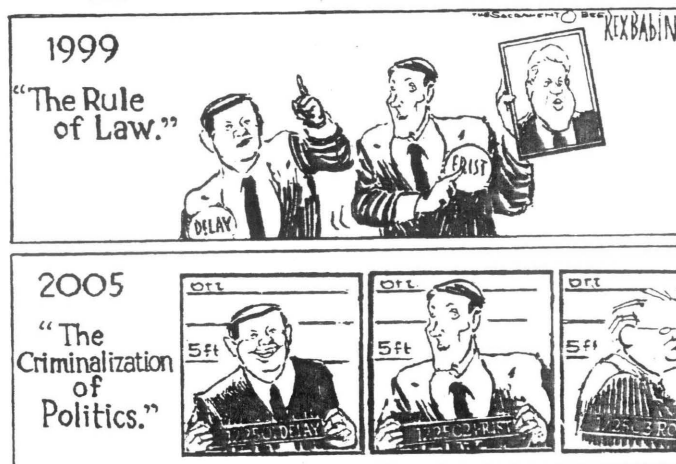
Serious readers of Levitt's book should know that the abortion research, as it relates to crime rate, has very recently been critically reviewed by Christopher Foote, an economist at the Boston Fed, and his assistant Christopher Goetz. The pair found that there were significant flaws in the formulation of Levitt's original research and as a result some factors, such as the crack wave and the arrest statistics, were either not correctly accounted for, or not accounted for at all. The net effect was that when the new factors were taken into account correctly, the abortion and crime rate correlation was much weaker.

Close observers of this "issue" agree that Levitt's research was the result of careful work and praised him for making his data and methodology easily available for review. The new finding did not conclude that the correlation was bogus; but that it was weaker than originally argued.

Cortland Standard

Opinion

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THANKS, MERCI BEAUCOUP & GRACIAS

***Our Pot Luck Workers** —Thanks for the hearty meals and hearty laughs.

Thanks in advance to all who will send in their annual contribution to this Newsletter – you keep us inspired!

CALENDAR

***January 22, 2006** 33rd Anniversary of *Roe vs. Wade*

***March** — Women's History Month celebrated by Cortland's many women's organizations primarily on SUNY campus.

***September 12**, Primary Election Day

***September 30**, Women's Coalition *Meet the Candidates* Brunch (State and federal offices) (Tentative Date)

***November 7**, Election Day

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail Checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
PO Box 385 * Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

ProChoice Friend - Name and Address _____

Contributions \$50 \$25 \$20 \$10 Other

Please note that contributions are not tax deductible.

SOUTH DAKOTA BAN ON ABORTION

Cortland, NY 13045

Choice

May 2006
Volume 15
Number 2

SOUTH DAKOTA BAN ON ABORTION

In March, Gov. Rounds of South Dakota signed a law banning most abortions in that state. This is a direct challenge to Roe v Wade inspired by the fact that the court's two newest members, Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito have records of criticizing Roe.

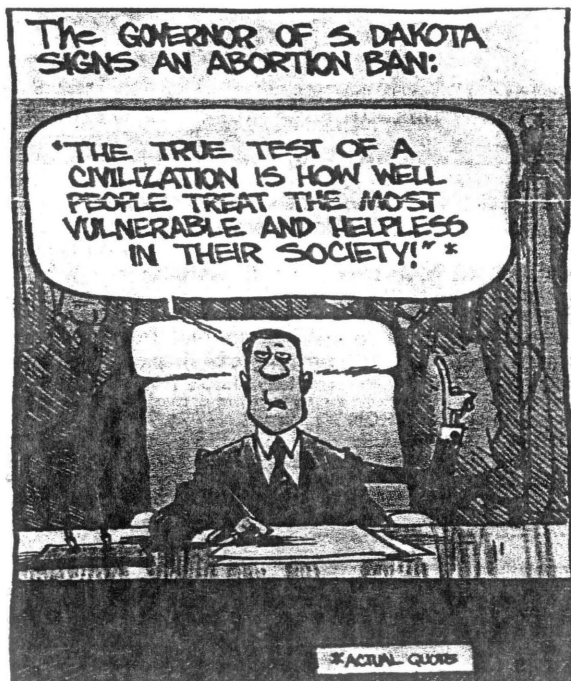
The problem is that women already lack access to abortion: Eighty-seven percent of all counties in America lack abortion providers – this is primarily in rural areas; 95% of the women in Wyoming traveled to other states to obtain abortions in 2000 according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute. In Mississippi, where there is one abortion clinic, 60% of women travel to neighboring states. In Kentucky, 41%; In South Carolina, 35%.

Those women who are most affected by the lack of access have little money, are geographically isolated, and happen to live in states where the social climate is hostile to reproductive rights. If Roe is overturned, a recent editorial notes:

the socioeconomic and geographic divisions that now mark the abortion landscape would undoubtedly grow more pronounced. While states like Texas and Louisiana would most likely ban the procedure, more liberal states would become magnets for women throughout their surrounding regions. In this sense, America would return not to the 1950's, when abortion was illegal, but to the early 1970's, when places like New York, which decriminalized abortion in 1970, were besieged by women from Ohio and Pennsylvania....

Abortion-rights advocates ought to focus less on the specter of a Supreme Court reversal than on the reality of who is — and is not — able to exercise choice under current laws. We'd do better to view South Dakota's action not as transformative, in other words, but as an effort to formalize what for many women already exists in practice.”

NYT Editorial 3-12-06



In 2005, all 50 state legislatures introduced bills to limit or ban abortions or contraception. Twenty-four of them enacted 36 such laws. As of March 6, 2006, 15 states have proposed laws to ban abortion or trigger a ban should Roe be overturned according to Volunteer Voice of PPRS (Mar.'06).

A 2004 survey by the Center for Reproductive Rights reported in ZNet (3-8-06), predicted that abortion could quickly become illegal — either through the reanimation of now dormant laws or the rapid passage of new bans — in as many as 30 states if the Supreme Court were to overturn Roe v. Wade ruling.

The 21 states that are seen as being at highest risk for banning abortion are Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

The nine states considered to be at medium risk are Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania.

The states at low risk states are Alaska, California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming. ZNet (ibid)

ANTI-BIRTH CONTROL MOVEMENT — BIOLOGY IS DESTINY

from Salon, the online magazine (3-20-06)

The real issue for many of the ultra-conservative groups was never just abortion; the underlying goal was to limit the sexual expression of women and relegate them to child-rearing roles only. ...those who are most determined to limit choice for others hold the religious view that sex should be for purposes of procreation only. Once one understands the underlying motivation, some of the apparent inconsistencies in the policies they pursue become clear.

In an article by Priya Jain in Salon, the tactics used by these groups to ban the use of birth control for the rest of us are:

1. Bogus health facts to scare women about the "dangers" of contraception;
2. Pressure on insurance companies to refuse coverage of contraception;
3. "Conscience clause" laws to protect pharmacists from having to dispense birth control, and cashiers from ringing them up.
4. a push to classify certain contraceptive methods as abortifacets, like the pill, Plan B and the IUD.

According to a National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association poll last year, 20 percent of anti-choice Americans do not support women's access to contraception and 80% do. Salon 3-20-06

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION (EC) — SAFER THAN ASPIRIN

Purposeful confusion surrounds EC, a drug that used to be called the "morning after pill." Renamed Plan B or EC, it is not one pill nor must it be taken on the morning after only. It can be taken up to 5 days after unprotected intercourse but is much more effective if taken within 72 hours.

Dr. Susan Wood, director of the Office of Women's Health at the FDA resigned when the FDA refused to allow EC to go over the counter. She spoke recently at the Family Planning Advocates conference in Albany. She described the usual drug approval process and then the process to which EC was subjected. Politics trumped science in the latter case.

The safety of EC was never a concern for the two expert panels that reviewed the drug. Wood said that oral contraceptives (OCs) works in exactly the same way that EC works. She stated that if you question EC, then examine your belief about how OCs work. We now know after almost 50 years experience with OCs that most women can safely use OCs.

Wood said that Plan B is safer than aspirin. It is also considered safer than OCs because Plan B is progesterone-only, unlike OCs that is a combination of estrogen and progesterone. However, some formularies of EC can be simply several doses from a pill cycle of a high dose OCs, in which case it will contain estrogen.

WHO HAS ABORTIONS

In a paper titled "Patterns in the Socioeconomic Characteristics of Women Obtaining Abortions in 2000-2001," researchers Rachel K. Jones, Jacqueline E. Darroch and Stanley K. Henshaw found that 40 percent of women in that year who had abortions identified themselves as either Catholic or evangelical. Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health (Sept-Oct, '02)

Ed Note: This fact reinforces for us that people who might not use birth control for religious reasons are more likely to have unwanted pregnancies. We see this with abstinence-only sex ed. Teens who are educated to only "just say no," may delay having sex for up to 18 months compared to those who receive abstinence plus education (this includes birth control information), but they are less likely to use birth control when they do and more likely to become pregnant and/or contract a STD.

3700 WALMART PHARMACIES NOW STOCK EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION

Wal-Mart is bending over backwards to counter all its negative press of late — poor working conditions, low wages/no benefits, females discrimination, construction site pollutions, the use of illegal immigrants, etc.

Since the FDA approved Plan B, Wal-Mart has refused to stock it. (Ed. Note: Wal-Mart has seen its role as the moral guardians of the world by refusing to stock girlie magazines and feminist t-shirts.) Two states required Wal-Mart to stock this drug and so the company decided to stock it in all their stores. However, the company will keep its so-called "conscientious objection" policy, which allows pharmacists to refuse to fill prescriptions and refer patients to another pharmacy or pharmacist. Wall Street Journal, 3/4/06 and AP/Yahoo! News, 3/4/06

"A VACCINE IS BORN"

From the University of Rochester, Rochester Review (Spring 2006), comes that headline in their alumni magazine. The article notes that three U of R virologists contributed significantly in a "stunning breakthrough in medical science" that has found a vaccine against cervical cancer, a disease that annually kills a quarter of a million women worldwide. Seventy percent of all cervical cancer is caused by 2 types of HPV – Human Papillomavirus 16 and 18 and HPV is an increasingly common sexually transmitted disease. Merck Pharmaceutical, using the technology developed by the U. of R. will market the vaccine, Gardasil some time this year.

However, in an article entitled, "Virginity or Death," Katha Pollitt (Nation 5-30-05) writes:

Not so fast! We're living in God's country now. The Christian right doesn't like the sound of this vaccine at all. "Giving the HPV vaccine to young women could be potentially harmful," Bridget Maher of the Family Research Council told the British magazine New Scientist, "because they may see it as a license to engage in premarital sex." Raise your hand if you think that what is keeping girls virgins now is the threat of getting cervical cancer when they are 60 from a disease they've probably never heard of.... Just as it's better for gays to get AIDS than use condoms, it's better for a woman to get cancer than have sex before marriage. It's honor killing on the installment plan....

Christian conservatives have a special reason to be less than thrilled about the HPV vaccine. Although not as famous as chlamydia or herpes, HPV has the distinction of not being preventable by condoms. It's Exhibit A in those gory high school slide shows that try to scare kids away from sex, and it is also useful for undermining the case for rubbers generally—why bother when you could get HPV anyway? In 2000, Congressman (now Senator) Tom Coburn of Oklahoma, who used to give gruesome lectures on HPV for young Congressional aides, even used HPV to propose warning labels on condoms. With HPV potentially eliminated, the antisex brigade will lose a card it has regarded as a trump unless it can persuade parents that vaccinating their daughters will turn them into tramps, and that sex today is worse than cancer tomorrow. According to New Scientist, 80 percent of parents want the vaccine for their daughters....

What is it with these right-wing Christians? Faced with a choice between sex and death, they choose death every time.

Essentially, Pollitt makes the same point as the Salon article above. Right-wing conservatives think that women's sexuality must be kept in line with fear. If preventing abortion was their main concern, they would be on the front lines with birth control and EC. Instead they prefer sex being tied to reproduction to keep women in their place.

ONE WAY TO GET SOME ACTION IN RESPONSE TO THE F.D.A.'s INACTION

While you may be wondering what is happening with the F.D.A., (Food and Drug Administration) and the so-called "morning

after pill," The New York Times (03-25-06) in a recent editorial entitled "Time to Stall a Bush Nominee," has urged Dem. Senators Patty Murray and Hillary Clinton to block a vote on the nomination of Andrew von Eschenbach to become commissioner of the F.D.A. "until the agency makes a final decision" in its regard.

Despite the "overwhelming bulk of expert opinion" favoring adoption of prescription-free availability, there has been "endless obfuscation and delays" by the Department. The article reminded that these two senators, last year, had threatened such action regarding the previous commissioner but were "betrayed" when the Secretary of Health and Human Services reneged on his written assurance that the agency would settle the issue by Sept. 1st. It continued:

The case for approving the use of the pill without a prescription has become even stronger in recent months. Evidence has emerged that high officials at the agency overruled their professional staff and single sp ignored expert advisory committees when they rejected the application. Moreover, the agency's claim that it needed more time to consider "novel" issues raised by the proposal to require prescriptions for young teenagers was belied by internal documents revealing that the issues had been discussed for some time but not analyzed aggressively. The logical inference is that the result was dictated by politics—by a desire to placate religious and social conservatives who consider the pill an invitation to promiscuity and an abortifacient.

Concluding the piece is the point that:

There is little likelihood that the Senate will reject Dr. von Eschenbach's nomination in a floor vote, although the Senators could at least push him for guarantees that safety issues will not be submerged in the rush to approve new drugs and conquer cancer. But the vote should not take place until the F.D.A. has the spine to tackle the morning-after pill head-on.

BUSH BUDGET CUTS HIT FOREIGN WOMEN

Despite his assertion that financing international family planning was one of the best ways to prevent abortion, President Bush's new budget proposes sharp cuts in such support. The new budget would reduce the present maintenance for these programs from \$436 million this year to \$357 million, an 18 percent cut.

Opponents are pointing out that these reductions would lead to "more unwanted pregnancies for the world's poorest women and more dangerous abortions where the procedure is outlawed." The New York Times 02-15-06

THANKS TO

Thanks to all of those who responded generously to our annual appeal in the February newsletter. And thanks for your kind words that accompanied your donations – those are the "paychecks" for our volunteers.

To the editors, we salute you!

To the Mail party, we love ya!

To our readers, talk to a friend or neighbor about an article in this newsletter. Don't be shy; we are the majority.

A VERY PERSONAL (AND PUBLIC) TAKE ON ABORTION

Australia, a country of 21 million where about 80,000 abortions are performed each year, a recent Parliamentary debate about government authority regarding RU486, the abortion pill, led to two senators making "stunningly personal revelations." According to an article in The New York Times (02-10-06) Nick Minchin 52, a senator opposing legislation to make the pill more easily available told the Senate that "A former girl friend of mine had an abortion." There is no suggestion that he will lose his post, or even his next election."

Even more personal was the statement on the floor by Senator Lynette Allison that she, at the age of 18 had had an illegal abortion because she came from a family who "would have been ashamed of their daughter having an illegitimate child." She said that she had made the statement "out of solidarity with other women."

In that country where the government pays for the total cost of an abortion, the number has been declining in recent years, "largely because of better sex education, not only in the schools, but also in magazines for women, and a greater availability of contraceptives." The issue being debated was settled by a vote in favor of the pill's being made more easily accessible.

(The writer noted that the debate produced "some moments unfathomable in the United States.")

AN HONORABLE MAN

Approaching his 70th birthday, Sherwood Boehlert, representing New York State's 25th District, announced his retirement following a career notable for his moderation, for his outstanding support of environmental legislation, and for his loyal support of women's reproductive rights. A New York Times editorial referred to the Congressman as a "Republican Rara Avis," and cited his leadership in taking it upon himself "to organize an opposing army of moderate Republicans dedicated to the stewardship principles of Theodore Roosevelt." This group "was able to forestall damaging rewrites of every important environmental law" that had been enacted under Richard Nixon and put forward in Newt Gingrich's "Contract With America."

We will miss him especially as he stepped up and was counted when women's reproductive rights were threatened. We extend to him our warmest thanks and gratitude, and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

CALENDAR

May 7, 1:00 PM Sponsored by the Bookery and the Social Justice Council of the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Ithaca, Cristina Page, Vice President of the Institute for Reproductive Health Access of NARAL Pro-Choice New York and author of "How the Pro-Choice Movement Saved America" will do a book signing at the Bookery in Dewitt Mall in Ithaca, N.Y.

August 26, Anniversary of the day women got the right to vote (1920). Do rent the fabulous DVD, Iron Jawed Angels at Blockbuster. After viewing, you will never not vote again.

Sept 1, Next newsletter.

Sept 30, 10AM Meet the Candidates Forum—Country Club

November 1, Special election edition of the Choice newsletter.

January 2007, Annual fundraising issue of Choice newsletter.

QUOTE FROM THE NYT MAGAZINE SECTION (4-9-06)

There are other countries in the world that, like El Salvador, completely ban abortion, including Malta, Chile and Colombia. El Salvador, however, has not only a total ban on abortion but also an active law-enforcement apparatus — the police, investigators, medical spies, forensic vagina inspectors and a special division of the prosecutor's office responsible for Crimes Against Minors and Women, a unit charged with capturing, trying and incarcerating an unusual kind of criminal.

TITLE X -- THE MAJOR FUNDING SOURCE FOR BIRTH CONTROL CLINICS IN THE U. S.

Attacked for more than two decades, Title X has suffered decreased purchasing power since FY 1981...

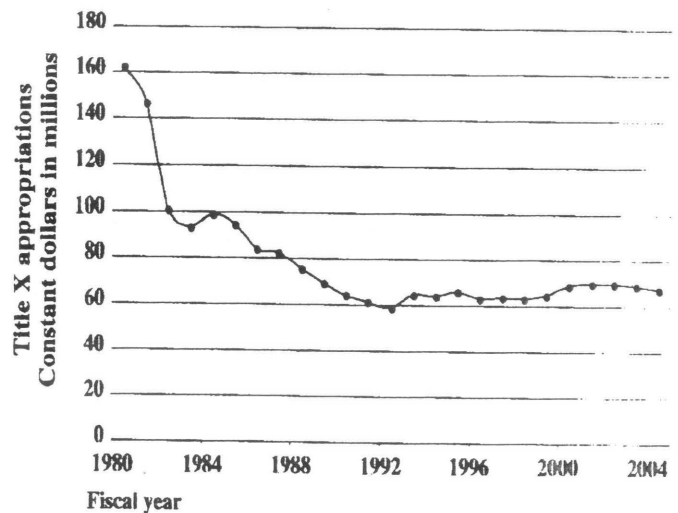


Chart provided by AGI (Alan Guttmacher Institute).

Newsletter/Membership Form

Mail Checks to: Cortland Coalition For Choice
PO Box 385 * Cortland, NY 13045

I support a woman's right to choose abortion and I vote for candidates who also support that right.

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

ProChoice Friend - Name and Address _____

Contributions \$50 \$25 \$20 \$10 Other

Please note that contributions are not tax deductible.

THE END OF AN ERA: 1989 to 2006

THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE OF THIS NEWSLETTER

The average age of our editors is 74 and frankly we're tired. We thank you all for your encouragement and support over the years. We will use your remaining contributions to fund Choice projects.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

September 30, 2006 10:00AM to Noon Senior High Rise 51 Pt. Watson See article below for details.

Choice

TIP THE BALANCE

According to NARAL, we need 6 seats in the Senate and 15 seats in the House to put leadership back into pro-choice hands. Let's do it! To win, we need to:

1. Defeat anti-choice senators like Jon Kyl in Arizona, Conrad Burns in Montana, and Mike DeWine in Ohio.
2. Protect pro-choice incumbents like Debbie Stabenow in Michigan and Maria Cantwell in Washington.
3. Elect pro-choice House challengers like the pro-choice "trifecta" in southeastern Pennsylvania that includes Lois Murphy (PA-06), Joe Sestak (PA-07), and Patrick Murphy (PA-08).

MEET THE CANDIDATE BRUNCH

On September 30 at 10AM the Cortland County Women's Coalition will sponsor the 12th Bi-annual question and answer forum featuring candidates for state and national public offices at the 51 Pt Watson Senior High Rise Building. Parking for the event will be across the street in the County Court House parking lot. The Women's Coalition consists of the League of Women Voters, the YWCA, the American Association of University Women, SUNY Women's Studies and Zonta. Hosting this event with the Women's Coalition are: the Republican and Democratic Parties, The Port Watson Tenant's Association, Access to Independence and Cortland Citizen's for Progressive Reform. A good will donation of \$1-5 will be asked at the door to cover brunch expenses.

NEWS BRIEFS

Ralph Reed, former leader/master mind of the Christian Coalition lost his primary bid for Lt. Governor in Georgia. In league with Jack Abramoff, Reed took Indian tribe gambling money to mobilize his right wing Christian forces to organize against the evils of gambling at competing Indian tribe casinos. Actually, it would have been a benefit to the Democrats to have had him on the ballot in November. NYT 7-19-06

Bush's First Veto—The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act was vetoed by President Bush, dashing the hopes of millions of Americans suffering from diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, Multiple Sclerosis, cancer and diabetes. The President chose to bow to the religious right and stand against 72% of Americans, a bipartisan majority in both chambers of Congress, our nation's leading scientists, and the millions of Americans suffering from afflictions that stem cell research could help. NYT 7-20-06

Plan B When asked at a press conference today, George W. Bush said, "I believe Plan B ought to be a required prescription for minors," and that he supports Acting Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Andrew von Eschenbach's decision to make it available over the counter for those 18 and over.

All Things Considered NPR 8-21-06

Evolutionary Biology Major Vanishes from approved federal list of acceptable fields of study for recipients of a federal education grant for low-income college students. The Federal Dept. of Education says it was just accidental. NYT 8-24-06

Programs to promote marriage and stricter work requirements for poor people are the only two things needed, according to Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael O. Leavitt, to improve the welfare reform laws of 1996. During the Clinton administration, welfare reform worked because of the many government supports in place—day care, extensive work programs etc. Child poverty and welfare rates fell. Since 2000, government supports have been limited, child poverty is up but caseloads continue to fall, meaning that fewer children in need are being reached. NYT 8-24-06

MID-DECADE CENSUS DATA

- 37 million or one in eight Americans lived in poverty in 2005, unchanged from 2004.
- Poverty is defined as \$10,000 for single person/ \$20,000 for family of 4.
- 46.6 million Americans have no health insurance — 15.9%

SEP 2006

Volume 15

Number 3

- Whites (8.3%) poverty declined; poverty up for blacks (almost 25%) and Hispanics (21.8%).
- 17.6 % of children under 18 and 20% of children 0-6 live in poverty, higher than any age group.
- Real mean household income rose 1.1%, the first time since 1999.

Truthout.org/docs 8-31-06

PLAN B APPROVED AS OVER THE COUNTER MED

Today the FDA put politics aside and granted over-the-counter status to emergency contraception for women 18 and older. This victory resulted from years of pressure from the scientific/medical communities and pro-choice activists! Please take a moment to thank Sens. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) and Patty Murray (D-WA), for their indispensable leadership on this issue.

Recall that plan B is not an abortifacient. It prevents the union of the egg and sperm or if egg and sperm do unite, the implantation is prevented in the uterus. If the egg and sperm are implanted, which is the definition of pregnancy, Plan B will not eliminate that pregnancy. The safety of Plan B was not questioned during the FDA hearings as it is as safe as aspirin.

actioncenter@ppfa.org 8-24-06

STEM CELL VETO

Bush's earlier decision in 2001 had put severe constraints on the ability of scientists to pursue the new and very promising avenue of research. The Senate and House both passed a bill liberalizing these constraints but Bush exercised his first veto against it.

Research in embryonic stem cells, derived from a fertilized egg when it is in one of its earliest stages of development, is critical because the cells have the potential to form any of the many different cells that make up the human body. It is hoped that by manipulating these cells, scientists can develop ways of, for example, regenerating nervous tissue in patients suffering from Alzheimer's Disease or regenerating insulin-producing cells in patients suffering from diabetes.

It has been less than 10 years since scientists first developed the capacity to isolate human embryonic stem cells. The stem cells that had been isolated and developed into self-generating lines by 2001 are not ideal for scientific research, meaning that the decision of the Bush administration has had a direct impact on the ability of researchers to carry out their work. This has prevented the development of treatments that could benefit or save the lives of thousands if not millions of people.

www.wsws.org 7-20-06

CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIANS CRITICIZE REPUBLICANS

According to the NYT 5-15-06, President Bush's base — conservative Christians—warned Republicans that they will not support them in the midterm elections “unless Congress does more to oppose same-sex marriage, obscenity and abortion.”

“There is a growing feeling among conservatives that the only way to cure the problem is for Republicans to lose the Congressional elections this fall,” said Richard Viguerie, a conservative direct-mail pioneer. Mr. Viguerie expressed growing concern with “government spending, the war in Iraq and the immigration-policy debate.”

Mr. Viguerie said, “I can't tell you how much anger there is at the Republican leadership....I have never seen anything like it.” Dr. James C. Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family said that the Republican leaders have betrayed conservatives and that they will bolt the party “unless the party delivers on conservative goals.”

Ed Note: See above — 7-20-06 Bush's first veto!

Several months later (8-25-06) the NYT noted that “abortion opponents threatened political retribution, however, and were displeased when President Bush backed the agency's decision (for Plan B). ‘Let there be no mistake about it,’ said the Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer, president of Human Life International, an anti-abortion group based in Virginia. ‘Today's decision lies at the feet of President Bush and has created a lasting rift with the Catholic faithful who comprise a large part of his support base.’”

RELIGIOUS LEFT GEARS UP TO FACE RIGHT COUNTERPART

Thomas Ferraro of Reuters News Service (7-25-06) says that the Left has a faith-based agenda of their own. “Liberal and progressive clergy from various denominations are lobbying lawmakers, holding rallies and publicizing their positions. They want to end the Iraq war, ease global warming, combat poverty, raise the minimum wage, revamp immigration laws, and prevent ‘immoral’ cuts in federal social programs.”

I join the ranks of those who are angry because I have watched as the faith I love has been taken over by fundamentalists who claim to speak for Jesus but whose actions are anything but Christian,” declared (The UCC Rev. Robin) Meyers, who has written a new book, “Why the Christian Right is Wrong.

According to scholars, the religious left has become its most active since the 1960s when the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and other clergy - black and white - were key figures in the civil-rights and anti-Vietnam war movements.

WHO HAS ABORTIONS?

Susan Reimer of the Baltimore Sun (6-26-06) says that the profile of the women seeking an abortion is not one of a careless teen. Brookings Institution economics scholar, Melissa Kearney drawing on data from the Alan Guttmacher Institute says that she is a mom in her 20s, she has attended college, she earns a manageable living, and she is either living with the father or in a long-term relationship with him.

STEM CELL EDITORIAL

The issue reflects the complex nature of the politics of abortion and medical research in the United States today and is in some ways the flip side of the Democrats' quandary over abortion. Just as medical advances like ultrasound imaging have spurred greater opposition to abortion, leading some Democrats to recalibrate their views, the promise of embryonic stem

cell research has pushed some Republicans toward positions in which black-and-white beliefs about the sanctity of life have given way to more nuanced and ethically complex stances.

As baby boomers have aged, demanding the best medical treatments for themselves and their elderly parents, the public clamor for stem cell research has grown more intense.

According to the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan polling organization that tracks the issue, roughly two-thirds of all Democrats and independents favor embryonic stem cell research, while nearly half of all Republicans do. NYT 72006

COLOMBIA LEGALIZES SOME ABORTIONS

Other Latin American women will be encouraged to work to change their country's anti-abortion laws after Colombia's highest court legalized abortion under limited circumstances. Latin America has the world's most stringent abortion laws.

Colombia's Constitutional Court overturned Colombia's complete ban on abortion and ruled that the procedure would be permitted when the life of a mother was in danger or the fetus was expected to die or in cases of rape or incest.

"This is a triumph for Colombian and Latin American women," said Mónica Roa, the lawyer who brought suit on grounds that Colombia was violating its own commitments to international human rights treaties ensuring a woman's right to life and health." NYT 5-12-06

ABSTINENCE ONLY MONEY FUNDS ANTIABORTION CLINICS

Today, a report released by Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA), Federal Funded Pregnancy Resource Centers Mislead Teens About Abortion Risks, found that 87% of federally funded "pregnancy resource centers," commonly known as crisis pregnancy centers, **provided false and misleading information about the physical and mental health effects of abortion and grossly exaggerated the medical risks of abortion.** The report also found that virtually all of the **funding is funneled through the federal abstinence-only-until-marriage program.** Between 2001 and 2005, more than \$30 million in federal dollars went to more than 50 crisis pregnancy centers....

Research shows that significant psychological stress after an abortion is no more common than after birth. However centers told investigators that the psychological effects of abortion are severe, long lasting, and common.

- One center said that the suicide rate in the year after an abortion "goes up by seven times." Another center said that post-abortion stress suffered by women having abortions is "much like" that seen in soldiers returning from Vietnam and "is something that anyone who's had an abortion is sure to suffer from."

- Other centers said that abortion can cause "guilt, sexual problems, suicidal ideas, drug use, eating disorders," and "a downward spiral where they lose friends and family members."

"Crisis pregnancy centers are using millions of taxpayer dollars to lie and mislead people who are seeking health and medical services, impeding their efforts to make informed and responsible decisions," Smith said. "This report underscores the Bush Administration's pattern of utter disregard for public

health evidence and the lack of any significant oversight of taxpayer dollars. That is the real 'crisis.'" Smith continued. SIECUS on line 7-17-06

OPERATION SAVE AMERICA (OSA)

Recall Flip Benham is the "clergy" who leads OSA, the anti-abortion organization that helped Operation Rescue do massive clinic blockades in the 1990s. At a recent rally in Jackson, Mississippi,... "Flip told the crowd that 'we have three choices with Muslims, kill them, be killed by them, or convert them. Which is your choice?' he asked. 'While not all Muslims are terrorists, all terrorist are Muslims,' he said. 'We destroy the Koran, not to desecrate their religion, but to set them free.'" Benham ripped the Koran into shreds, along with a Rainbow Flag and copies of several Supreme Court decisions that he didn't like.

Women-clinicdefense@barf.org 7-20-06

ABORTION IN NEW YORK CITY

Pat Arnow, writing for w-cd@barf.org says that women have always come to NYC for abortions. Clergy and other underground networks referred women to "safe" abortionists there before they were legal. Back then, women often had to spend their life savings for an abortion.

In 1970 when NYS passed the nation's first law legalizing abortion, women from all states came to NYC for abortions. NYC continues as a medical hub for first and second term abortions. Despite the dearth of clinics elsewhere, NYC has 34 major clinics providing abortions. In fact, in 2003, one in ten abortions in the US is done in NYS and 70% of those take place in the city, according to the Guttmacher Institute. NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg ordered all city hospitals to train residents in Ob/Gyn in performing abortions. Only California has a similar requirement.

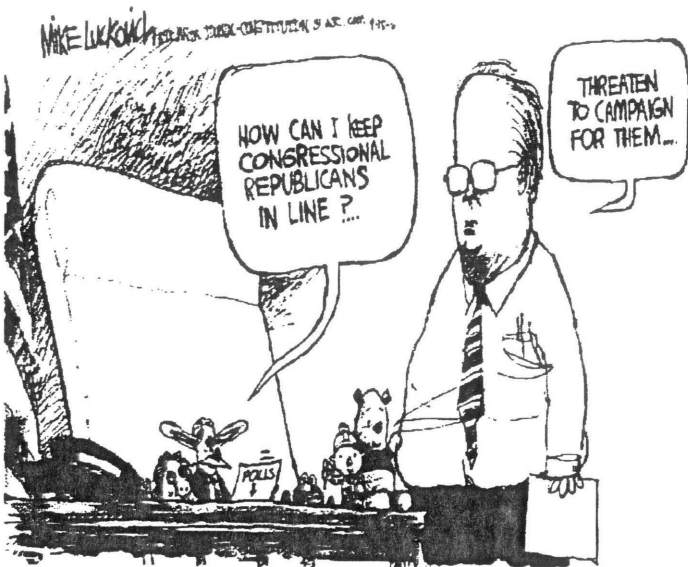
Roe vs. Wade was decided in 1973 giving women in all states access to abortion. However, there was not a year where Roe was not challenged in the high court. More conservative judges and state laws imposed restrictions on abortions, but NYS remained among the most liberal. So women continued to come here for abortions, again often spending their life savings to do so.

Outside of NY and California, the lack of Medicaid funding for abortion; the lack of clinics; the lack of reproductive health training for doctors; the protesters, sometimes violent; and the parental consent and other restrictive laws combine to make abortion very difficult for women to obtain. Sometimes it still takes a woman's life savings to get an abortion.

Women-clinicdefense@barf.org 8-28-06

ABSTINENCE ONLY

For the first time since 1999, abstinence-only-until-marriage programs were flat-funded—that is, they received the same amount of funding as last year. The *No More Money Campaign* with a total of 290 organizations including this one helped make this happen. In 2005 NYS received nearly \$10.7 million in federal Abstinence Only funds. Email from Jen Heitel Yakush, Public Policy Associate of SIECUS



THE ENDING OF THE ERA

- A HUGE THANKS TO MY CO EDITOR. YOU ARE THE WIND BENEATH MY WINGS.
- A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO DID THE MAILING PARTIES. WE DID HAVE GREAT FOOD, GREAT CONVERSATIONS, AND LOTS OF LAUGHTER AND COMRADARY.
- A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SENT MONEY TO THE CHOICE NEWSLETTER. SEVERAL TIMES WE ATTEMPTED TO STOP WRITING BUT WE HAD TOO MUCH OF YOUR MONEY TO LET YOU DOWN.
- A HUGE THANKS TO OUR LOYAL READERS—ALL 600 OF YOU! WE WILL MISS YOU.
- A HUGE THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO MARCHED FOR CHOICE, WHO WROTE LETTERS TO EDITORS AND POLITICIANS ABOUT CHOICE.
- A HUGE THANKS TO THOSE WHO VOTED PRO-CHOICE.
- AND A HUGE THANKS TO YOU, ANDREA FOR BEING THE LIFE FORCE OF CHOICE! .

The other Co-Editor

CALENDER

- *September 12 Primary Election
- *Sept 30 Meet the Candidates Forum 10AM 51 Pt Watson
- *November 7 Do Vote Pro-choice in the General Election
- *Jan 22, 2007 34th anniversary of Roe V Wade.

SONG OF SOLOMON

Direct quotes from sermon at Forrest Home Chapel, Sept 2006
Rev. Dr. Laura Felleman

Set me as seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. (Song of Solomon 8: 6, 7)

Now that's hot. These verses are from the Song of Solomon, a book of the Bible also known as the Song of Songs..... in the Hebrew Bible... translated as the 'Loveliest Song.' It's a short book, maybe only five pages in most Bibles. It doesn't take long to read and it's easy to miss....

It took a long time for the Church to reverse the ancient Christian teaching that sex was a shameful activity that rendered one unpure and defiled. It wasn't until the nineteenth and twentieth centuries that Christian biblical scholars increasingly focused on the meaning of the Song of Solomon as a love poem describing the love between husband and wife. Many denominations now have official statements that affirm sexual relations between the married and reject earlier teachings. But some tensions still remain. I heard some of this tension when it was announced this week that the FDA approved Plan B for over-the-counter sale to those 18 and older. Plan B is also known as the morning after pill. If I understand correctly this hormone pill works by inhibiting the fertilization of an egg. It's like the hormones put a "Do Not Disturb" sign outside the egg and sperm then leave the egg alone.

I heard an interview with Bob Knight, director of the Culture and Family Institute at Concerned Women for America discussing the FDA's decision.... If you go to their website you will find a long list of reasons why they are concerned. Some of these reasons have to do with the legality of the discussion, (does the FDA have the authority to create a new class of behind-the-counter drugs?), some of reasons are medical (what is the long term impact for women who take this high dose of hormones?), some of the reasons are related to public health (In countries where Plan B has been in use for five years, studies show that reports of STDs have dramatically increased).

But what does Bob Knight say the top concern is? "We are most worried about sexual promiscuity being encouraged." Okay, not a big surprise there. CWA is an evangelical Christian organization, I would expect them to be against sexual promiscuity. My objection is to the narrative Mr. Knight uses to illustrate his point. In the interview he said things like:

I can just imagine the scene in the fraternity house. Guys are high fiving each other and thinking—I couldn't get that little cutie into my bedroom last week but now I've got this pill in my pocket and I'll just tell her I can fix it if anything goes wrong. . . A teenage boy, 18 years old can walk in, get the drug, turn around and say "Hey let's party" and hand the drug to a 14 year old girl right there in the pharmacy. It's the price of a case of beer. I bet boys will be stocking up on it.

Bob Knight's narrative stereotypes American teenagers in the grossest way possible. It suggests that teenage boys are self-absorbed predators and that teenage girls are naïve victims.... But even so, if this is the case then he has a bigger problem than the availability of a new form of birth control. Blocking sales of this drug is not going to make the teenage boys he is referring to more concerned for the feelings of others nor will such an act bolster the self-esteem of the teenage girls he imagines he is protecting. What is his plan to teach teenagers responsible behavior? What advice does he have for parents of teenagers? He has nothing to say on that subject. He just bashes teens.